



## Art store aims young

A gigantic multi-brand store is hoping to tap into the city's increasingly youthful shoppers with its unique collection of domestic designs and imports.

The store gives young designers a space to showcase their clothing, accessories and home products. With an open exhibition area and food service, the owner seems eager to turn his store into a miniature 798 Art Zone.

**Read more on Page 16**



### Page 8 Italian paper-cut art

Chinese diners have long written off Italian pizza as Chinese food gone wrong. Now people are discovering that Italians too have a long history of making what was once believed a uniquely Chinese art form: paper-cuts.



### Pages 12-13 Scents of China

Top contemporary artists say scent is the key to understanding Chinese culture. These big tea-scented clouds are the first of five works being exhibited at the 2011 Venice Biennale's China Pavilion. The organizers hope to tap into visitors' sense of smell to melt through cultural barriers.



# Plastic bag ban begins third year

By Yao Weijie

The ban on free plastic bags turns three years old on June 1.

In an effort to further slash bag usage, the Ministry of Commerce said it is considering expanding the ban to include bags used in hospitals and restaurants.

On June 1, 2008, the government instituted a ban on all plastic bags thinner than 0.025 millimeters. All Chinese retailers, including supermarkets and department stores, were banned from providing free plastic shopping bags.

But the longstanding ban has recently come back into question.

Certainly, the ban on free plastic bags has had positive effects during the past three years. The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) reported that the ban has saved the use of 24 billion bags at retail stores and reduced national plastic consumption by 600,000 tons – about 3.6 million tons of petroleum and 5 million tons of standard coal.

"People's environmental awareness has improved. At least they know that free plastic bags harm the environment. They are gradually getting used to taking bags with them when they go shopping," said Mao Shoulong, a professor at Renmin University's School of Public Administration.

That many people now go to the vegetable markets armed with non-woven fabric bags is due to the plastic bag ban.

However, the effectiveness of the ban is slipping. Although big supermarkets have almost universally followed the ban, many small agricultural markets and neighborhood grocers continue to offer free ultra-thin plastic bags.

"They are worth pennies. Competition is fierce, and if you won't give me free bag, I will go to another store," said a local woman shopping at the Beixiang vegetable market.

One man running a food stand said he buys his ultra-thin bags from Xinfadi wholesale market, where

60 bags cost him 1.5 yuan. "If you don't offer free bags to the customers, they will think it's inconvenient to buy your food. It's a hassle for them to search their pockets to find a couple of coins for the bag."

Many small grocers began charging for bags during the first few months after the ban took effect. However, due to a lack of supervision and penalties, the number of small grocers offering free bags has risen 20 percent.

Given the popularity of the plastic bags being sold at supermarket checkouts, one really has to question how much the ban is really protecting the environment, Deng Haijian, a commentator, said.

"During the past three years, enforcement of the ban was left up to each businessman's conscience," Deng said. Businesses often offered free bags as a promotion, making some customers frustrated with the times they had to pay extra for plastic bags.

He said it was a bad time to

expand the ban to hospitals and restaurants, even if customers are now used to paying extra for bags. People will continue to use plastic bags to pack food. Forcing them to cough up a few extra coins for a bag will probably result in customers walking away from the food stands, which is not the goal of the bag ban.

It might be time to take another approach to eradicate plastic bag use, Deng said.

The government should strengthen its supervision and give customers and businesses appropriate incentives to use non-plastic bags. It should also accelerate its research into biodegradable plastics.

"The key point is that consumption is only one end of the industrial chain. The government should be paying attention to the people who are making these free plastic bags by shutting down the illegal and sub-standard manufacturers," Mao said.

## Courts urged to be prudent in use of death penalty

Courts were told on Tuesday to pronounce a two-year suspension of execution for condemned criminals if an immediate execution was not deemed necessary.

The move shows an increasingly cautious approach on the part of justice authorities toward execution of the death penalty.

The Supreme People's Court (SPC) said in an annual report that the death penalty should only be applied to "a very small number" of criminals who have committed "extremely serious crimes."

Under the policy of "justice tempered with mercy," capital punishment reprieves should be granted as long as they are allowed by law, the Supreme Court said.

The court report also vowed the prudent adoption of the death penalty for cases involving serious violence triggered by civil disputes, especially when defendants were forgiven by their victims.

However, it was not clear whether the new criminal law interpretation would affect the fate of a peddler in Shenyang, Liaoning Province.

Xia Junfeng had his death penalty upheld by an appeals court on May 9. The sentence is awaiting final approval by the Supreme Court.

Xia stabbed to death two urban management officials who attempted to stop him from carrying out his business operations two years ago.

China has been reforming its death penalty system since an amendment to the Criminal Procedure Law in 2007 made the Supreme People's Court the only authority in the country to have final approval of all death sentences.

The Supreme Court overturned about 15 percent of death sentences handed down in the first half of 2008.

Legislators also removed 13 offenses from the list of 68 crimes punishable by death earlier this year. The offenses were all economic crimes. These included tax fraud, the smuggling of cultural relics or precious metals, grave robbing and fossil theft.

Revisions to the country's criminal code also ban the use of capital punishment for offenders over the age of 75.

(Xinhua/People's Daily Online)

# Tsinghua drops 'Jeanswest Building' moniker

By Han Manman

Although Tsinghua University defended its naming of a new teaching building as "in line with world standards," public pressure has forced the school to back down from its decision to sell naming rights to Jeanswest.

The school was widely criticized for its decision to sell naming rights to the apparel brand.

Students at Tsinghua University on Monday found their No. 4 Building had been renamed the Jeanswest Building. Jeanswest Clothing is a popular apparel brand from Australia that entered China in 1993 and was later bought by a Hong Kong company.

Many students were very upset with the decision.

"I know it is common practice to name a university building after a prominent figure's name if he or she gives a large donation, but this is something else," Chen Zhengnan, a Tsinghua student, said.

"I can't accept seeing our building named after an apparel brand. This is a far too obvious commercial move," she said.

Chen said top universities such as Cambridge University do not accept donations from many commercial companies, especially tobacco labels, and forbid these companies from slapping their names on campus buildings.

"Our school needs to remember that there is a line that divides academic and business interests," Chen said.

A Tsinghua press release issued Tuesday said that Jeanswest Clothing agreed to



Public pressure has forced Tsinghua to drop its Jeanswest Building naming plan.

CFP Photo

donate money for the building's maintenance and equipment replacement in April. It did not disclose how much money the company donated.

The press release said the donation would be used to maintain and update classroom equipment. In return, the building, which was completed in 1987, would bear the company's name.

"We understand the students' discontent," said Jiang Ling, a senior manager at the company's marketing department.

Jiang told the Legal Mirror

Wednesday that they were aware that students were opposed to the naming and that the company's executives were in talks with Tsinghua leaders, but the company is not sure whether it will change the title.

It was not the first time a campus building was named after an enterprise.

A teaching building at Jinan University in Guangzhou recently renamed itself to include the brand of a local real estate company.

The China Youth Daily

reported that many schools throughout the country are chasing funding by selling off their naming rights. It quoted some educators as saying the renaming issue is one way schools are attempting to balance their budgets.

"If the donation is legal and from a business in good reputation, then there should be no problem with renaming the building," an expert told the newspaper. "The school's only duty is to make sure its academic independence will not be affected by its commercial interests."

# Shanghai fights to save dying dialect

## Rapid decline

Given the choice, most parents in Shanghai prefer to send their children to study English rather than Shanghai dialect.

According to a survey by the Municipal Working Committee of the Spoken and Written Language in 2010, fewer than 40 percent of the municipality's elementary school students spoke the dialect at home.

The death of the Wu Chinese sub-dialect is being recognized first in the local arts.

*Huju*, or Songhu Opera, is the major folk drama form in Shanghai and is performed in Shanghai dialect. In recent years, Shanghai Songhu Opera Theater has been trapped in a recruitment crunch: it cannot find new students capable of speaking Shanghai dialect.

At this year's April recruitment, many local children failed at speaking or came from other Wu-speaking regions such as Anhui and Zhejiang provinces. Applicants who showed some hope of mastering the language are being sent to a newly-opened speech training class to correct their pronunciation.

"Songhu Opera relies deeply on the strength of the performers' Shanghai dialect. We are using professional teachers to help our newest members," a theater employee said.

Shanghai dialect is a subdivision of the Wu family, currently spoken by some 80 million people throughout Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces.

Once the second most spoken dialect, the Wu family has been collapsing the last several years. Shanghai locals are now indiffer-

ent to their local dialect, and newcomers to the municipality are reluctant to learn.

"Ten years ago, we almost never spoke standard Chinese in the office. Around 2003 or 2004, we had a huge flood of non-locals come into Shanghai, and now that's all we use. Even when we're talking to local colleagues, we usually end up speaking the standard dialect," said Edward Zhang, a 41-year-old Shanghai native.

Zhang said he still uses Shanghai dialect in the home, but switches to standard Chinese when out around the town.

"In the past, you would hear most people speaking Shanghai dialect at the food markets. Now, with many vendors coming from Shandong or Anhui provinces, we use the standard dialect," he said.

## Out of sight

The market isn't the only place Shanghai's dialect is vanishing.

The dialect was pulled from most TV and radio programs during the last several years. Several local TV stations that used to broadcast in Shanghai dialect halted their programming in January.

One popular show, *Baijiaxin*, gave people a chance to air disputes with their neighbors. When new anchors were brought onto the show and began speaking standard Chinese, most viewers said the show became a shell of its former self.

Locals also said their comedy shows fell apart after being switched to standard Chinese. "There are a lot of jokes that only

By Zhang Dongya

For 68-year-old Wang Yiran, it is extremely frustrating that she can't speak to her six-year-old granddaughter in her native Shanghai dialect.

Like many in her age group, Wang worries bitterly that the current generation will be the death of her language.

With the spread of standard Chinese across the country, many regional dialects are facing imminent death.



With the spread of standard Chinese, how to save dialects is an urgent question.

exist in Shanghaiese slang or as enigmatic folk similes. Without the language context, they don't make any sense," one Shanghai viewer said.

Regulations passed by the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television in 2005 required all televised dramas be broadcast in standard Chinese instead of regional dialects. In 2009, the administration acted to halt the broadcasts of several TV dramas that were being aired in Shandong and Shanghai dialect.

## A rescue attempt

Earlier this year, deputies to the National People's Congress (NPC) called on Shanghai schools to add courses to teach the local dialect to preserve the city's culture.

Deputy Hu Min advised the creation of a weekly class in Shanghai dialect and the addition of the dialect as a university elective. He also suggested Songhu Opera be added as a three- or five-year college program to support its development.

Responding to the proposals, the Shanghai Municipal Education Commission said it formally

adopted the central government's policy to promote standard Chinese, but that it would try to preserve Shanghai dialect.

The commission said that the spread of standard Chinese guarantees people's ability to communicate without barriers in Shanghai, which is fast becoming an immigrant city. It is considering promoting Shanghai dialect in kindergartens and elementary schools.

Some locals born in the 1970s and early 1980s recall that middle school teachers used to use Shanghai dialect to teach math and physics.

That ended after a nationwide campaign to popularize standard Chinese in the early 1990s, in which Shanghai dialect was banned from the classroom.

City governors are considering reopening space for the dialect in school communication.

In April, the Shanghai Municipal Language Committee started to recruit "Shanghai dialect speakers" around the city to record authentic dialects of various districts and create a map. Unfortunately, the extreme shortage of candidates capable of

speaking the dialect forced them to push the deadline to the end of this month.

Most applicants are elderly Shanghaiese – comparatively young applicants make up less than half of the pool.

One applicant in Changning District, 67-year-old Cai Gendi, said she took part because few young Shanghai residents can speak the local dialect. She said her son's generation does not speak anything resembling authentic Shanghai dialect, and her granddaughter cannot speak it at all.

She said she fears the dialect will vanish within 20 years.

Some Shanghai colleges have organized a Shanghai Dialect Association. At Shanghai University of Engineering Science, dozens of students have Shanghai dialect class on Wednesday evenings. Some members are area natives.

The association, which was founded six years ago, was originally aimed at helping non-local students assimilate into the local community.

Today, it is teaching the locals.



Zhou Libo, a Shanghai comedian, is trying to preserve the area's comic culture. He has to use standard Chinese with a Shanghai accent to cater to national audiences, but Shanghai viewers say something is lost in translation.

CFP Photos



## China Open Tickets On Sale Worldwide

The 2011 China Open will be held at the National Tennis Center from September 25 to October 9. During the event, the brand new Center Court Stadium, complete with a retractable roof will be unveiled. On May 26, tickets to the China Open will officially go on sale worldwide. Ticket buyers can take part in the new stadium court lighting game and win various prizes. For more information, please call the China Open hotline or logon [www.chinaopen.com.cn](http://www.chinaopen.com.cn)

China Open hotline: 400-707-6666

Official China Open website: [www.chinaopen.com.cn](http://www.chinaopen.com.cn)

Official ticket website: [t.chinaopen.com.cn](http://t.chinaopen.com.cn)

Weibo.com: [weibo.com/chinaopen](http://weibo.com/chinaopen)

taobao: [chinaopen.tmall.com](http://chinaopen.tmall.com)

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Ticket hotline: 400-678-6016

Ticketing website: [www.shuiniaticket.com](http://www.shuiniaticket.com)



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# Will Chinese head IMF?

## Media identifies Zhu Min as possible replacement for Kahn

With former International Monetary Fund (IMF) head Dominique Strauss-Kahn facing more than 70 years of prison for alleged sexual assault, who will become the new leader of the IMF? Many policymakers believe that candidates include leaders from emerging economies, including China's Zhu Min, ex-deputy governor of the country's Central Bank and former special adviser to Strauss-Kahn, and Zhou Xiaochuan, the current governor of the Central Bank.



Zhu Min is a possible candidate to replace the recently resigned Kahn.

Getty Images/CFP Photo

Among the possible successors for Dominique Strauss-Kahn are China's Zhu Min and Zhou Xiaochuan, both listed by BBC and AP, evidence of the growing influence of emerging markets.

The IMF's former president is currently in custody at Rikers Island in New York. He faces up to 74 years of prison if convicted of rape.

Zhu, 59, has worked as a special adviser to Kahn in the IMF since last February. Before that, he worked at the World Bank and Bank of China and taught in the US.

"Asia is likely to play a power-broker role," the *Wall Street Journal* said, citing an official from the G20. "That's because the next IMF chief would need the backing of Asia, the global economy's fastest growing region, as a way to endorse the validity of the selection process," he said.

Since its establishment in 1947, only Europeans have headed the IMF.

But reports from European media also questioned whether Zhu is experienced enough for the position. They predicted he would more likely be a deputy managing director.

ing director.

Possible European candidates include French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde, the former head of the German central bank Axel Weber, and former German finance minister Peer Steinbrueck.

Meanwhile, there are also growing appeals against the traditional carve-up of leadership by Europe. Besides China's Zhu Min, non-European IMF candidates include former South African finance minister Trevor Manuel and Brazil's ex-central bank president, Arminio Fraga. (Agencies)

### Weekly highlights

#### Severe drought along Yangtze

(UPI) – Central China is facing its worst drought since 1954, affecting millions in the provinces along the Yangtze River, officials said.

No immediate relief is in sight, the China Meteorological agency warned Tuesday, as little rain is expected in the next 10 days and temperatures are expected to be in the high 90s both in the central and southern parts of the country.

Rainfall has been 30 to 80 percent less than normal. Experts said extensive cultivation and poor water conservancy are also contributing to the problem.

The worst hit areas include Anhui, Jiangsu, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi and Zhejiang provinces, as well as the Shanghai municipality. Some of the southern provinces also have been hit by the drought.

In the first four months of this year, the Yangtze basin received 40 percent less rainfall than normal.

#### 900 million mobile phone users

(AFP) – China had more than 900 million mobile phone subscribers at the end of April with nearly two-thirds of the world's most populous nation using cellular technology, the government said on Tuesday.

The nation's army of mobile phone users grew by more than 41 million in the first quarter of 2011, bringing the total number of cell phone subscribers to 900.39 million, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said.

Mobile phone use has exploded in recent years as handset prices and user charges have dropped, while the continual arrival of new technologies on the market has spurred sales.

According to government figures, the country had 565 million mobile phone subscribers in February 2009.

In the first quarter of 2011, the telecommunication industry reported a 9.4 percent growth year-on-year on business revenue valued at 308.36 billion yuan, the ministry said.

#### Greater attention to safety after iPad factory blast

(Reuters) – The government asked Foxconn Technology and other Taiwanese firms to pay more attention to safety, after a deadly blast at a Chinese factory making iPads for Apple.

Production in parts of the plant in Chengdu was suspended by Foxconn, Apple's biggest manufacturing partner, after three workers died and 15 were injured in a blast in a polishing workshop where Apple's signature products undergo finishing.

"We hope that Foxconn and other Taiwanese companies can learn a lesson from this, fulfill their safety responsibilities, strengthen internal oversight controls and scrutinize hidden dangers in a timely manner and ensure safe production," Fan Liqing, spokeswoman for China's Taiwan Affairs Office, said on Wednesday.

Foxconn, the world's largest contract manufacturer, counts Taiwan's Hon Hai Precision Industry and Foxconn International among its listed units.

"After the accident happened, the local government immediately undertook rescue work and set up a joint investigation team. As I understand it, the initial findings are that this was a production safety accident," Fan said at a news conference.

### The third eye

## Keep an eye on power instead of fame

By Yao Weijie

Emerging countries have become a global force that cannot be ignored, and they are asking for a reordering of the global economy.

They have tried their best to change the IMF's voting system. As a result, some emerging countries will be among the top 10 shareholders, and China will be ranked third, after Japan and the US, in the number of votes it holds within the IMF.

"In principle we believe that emerging and developing countries should be involved in top management," said Jiang Yu, spokesperson for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"It would be honorable if a Chinese

were elected new IMF chief. However, the time is not yet right," said Wang Lu, professor in the Management Science and Engineering department at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

First, every emerging country has its own candidate, so votes may be split.

Second, this position needs American support. The US' share in the IMF is 16.41 percent. Since important decisions, such as the occupation of the chief post, requires 85 percent of the votes, the US essentially has veto power. China is unlikely to get the US' support because the US is considering its own candidates.

In order to balance politics, it has been common for the world's financial organi-

zations to elect a European as the IMF's leader and an American as the World Bank's chief.

"European countries' share in IMF is 36 percent. They will try to maintain their traditional monopoly of the IMF's head post," Wang said.

But even if the IMF were to get a Chinese head, China's influence would be limited. The good news is that whatever happens, IMF reforms will benefit China, whose share in IMF will increase from 3.65 percent to 6.07 percent. "As an emerging country, China should pay more attention to its power. At best, the chief of IMF is just a coordinator," said Qiu Lin, senior economic commentator.

# Boom or bubble?

## Dotcom IPO frenzy may herald new Web crash

By Huang Daohen

Interest in Chinese dotcoms has reached fever pitch: half of the companies that went public on the Nasdaq last year were Chinese, and 17 more are planning foreign IPOs this year.

But these businesses face massive risk – risk that makes their planned values unsettling to many investors who can still recall the dotcom bust that ended the 1990s.

Is China engineering a second dotcom bubble?



The listing of Renren may be a tipping point for the new dotcom fever.

An Xin/CFP Photo

### Overseas listing frenzy

For all the uncertainty in the Chinese economy, the Internet sector is acting like the Energizer Bunny: it just keeps "going and going," writes Nicholas Vardy, an US investor.

Statistics from Bloomberg news show that among the companies listed on the Nasdaq in 2010, as many as 50 percent originated in China. This year, at least 20 more have made or are planning foreign IPOs.

Their names are familiar to any Web user – antivirus software maker Qihoo 360, online matchmaker Shiji Jiayuan, book-seller Dangdang and social network Renren – and the optimism about their potential is driving their share prices sky high.

There is certainly cause for optimism: Baidu and Sina were among the best performers on the US stock market last year.

Sina, with the help of its Weibo service, more than doubled its share value during the first five months of this year. Search giant Baidu's stock has more than tripled since its rival Google withdrew from the mainland. Its founder and CEO Robin Li is now the nation's richest man.

Online-video provider Youku also grew by a similar amount since it went public in US markets last December.

However, a closer look at these companies tells another story,

said Zhao Xiao, a Beijing economist. While Google's value to revenue ratio is 4.60 to 1, Baidu's is 41.44 to 1.

"If all these companies have such a high ratio, then the sector is in danger of seeing a bubble," he said.

These fears have done little to cool the market's interest in Chinese Internet stocks. Renren raised almost \$750 million when it listed on the New York Stock Exchange earlier this month, giving the company a post-IPO value of about \$7.5 billion.

China had 457 million netizens at the end of 2010, and that number is expected to increase to more than 800 million by 2013. With numbers like that, it is little wonder the Chinese Internet market is so attractive to investors, Zhao said.

### Renren's dilemma

But Zhao said the listing of Renren may be a tipping point.

Though Baidu and Sina have been big money-makers for US investors, that won't happen with Renren, Zhao said.

While its name is casually tossed around with the phrase "China's Facebook," it hardly compares to the US social network in operations or user base, Zhao said.

Li Lin, director of research at Oak Pacific Interactive, Renren's owner, said the site had roughly 117 million users as of March 31. Facebook had more than 500 mil-

lion users.

Li said Renren's major problem is finding active users and becoming a cornerstone of Chinese Internet life. But that won't be an easy task given the competition from Sina Weibo and Kaixin001.com, another major social network.

By contrast, Facebook had more than 150 million active users in the US, equal to about 60 percent of the online population.

Li said the alleged cooperation between Facebook and Baidu to launch a China service may create further pressure.

### The makings of bubble

But Zhao said Renren is not the only name caught up in the emerging bubble.

In the wake of spectacular listings by Youku and sky-high valuations for Facebook and Twitter, capital markets are becoming more cautious of overvalued tech firms.

On May 19, the listing of LinkedIn, a US-based professional networking website, fueled bubble fears.

The company was expected to be worth as much as \$4 billion, but it raised the share price for its public listing by more than 200 percent, pushing the company's value as high as \$9 billion.

The dizzying hike in the IPO price worries many. *The Wall Street Journal* said it was the first time since the Internet bubble burst in 2000 that a firm has

hiked its price so much.

In a survey of investors and traders, two thirds thought it was already too high.

In March, famed investor Warren Buffett said that social media networks may be the next Internet bubble.

"Most of them will be overpriced," Buffett said. "It's extremely difficult to value those companies. Some will be huge winners, which will make up for the rest."

Buffett was echoed by his Chinese counterparts.

Innovation Works CEO Li Kaifu, Zero2IPO CEO Ni Zhengdong and former Sina CEO Wang Zhidong said in a recent industrial get-together that a bubble has formed in the Internet capital market and Chinese Web companies were being overvalued.

Taking these into account, Vanc.com, the country's biggest online clothing retailer, said early this month it would not consider an IPO this year.

The company's founder and CEO Chen Nian said it will focus on expanding its revenue first. "I thought about going public last year, but I changed my mind after three months because I want to focus on growing my sales numbers," Chen said in a recent interview.

"The IPO may come in late 2012, but if the sales are better than expected, I still may decline to go public. Even Facebook hasn't gone public," he said.

## Rich prefer art, travel spending to status

By Huang Daohen

The wealthy may be becoming less face-driven in their daily purchases, though they are still gobbling up luxury products all over the world, according to a recent study by the accounting firm KPMG.

The study surveyed 1,200 middle-class shoppers between the ages of 20 and 45 in the country's 24 top cities. The results suggest that consumption habits may be shifting.

While the affluent used to buy high-end products purely to show off, recent purchases have been more personal, with many spending on art and travel.

In 2006, the same study found that half the luxury purchases made by Chinese consumers were motivated by status. Most purchased luxury brands such as Louis Vuitton, Prada and high-end cars like Porsches and Rolls-Royces.

"It is a tradition that people in China first buy houses, then cars and then luxuries," said Robert Chen, an industrial researcher at Xinhua.

"When you look back five years ago, it was clear that people were buying to show that they've made it big. If you drive a Rolls-Royce, people know you're rich," Chen said.

"Now they want to spend more for their own taste and experience. That is the next step," Chen said.

Among the respondents to KPMG's survey, nearly 40 percent say buying luxury items demonstrated personal taste. Fewer than 20 percent said luxury purchases are akin to showing off, down 30 percent from the 2006 survey. Furthermore, about 70 percent say they would spend more on art collection and self-rewards.

When it came to experiences, more than 40 percent say they had visited the best hotels and resorts around the world, and 30 percent said they had traveled abroad. About 35 percent said they had regular spa or beauty treatments, and 25 percent said they joined a yoga or gym program.

Chen said this change in attitude means that touring, art collecting and beauty treatments will become the biggest growth areas in high-end consumption.

The country had the second largest number of young millionaires in 2010 after the US. Market experts forecast that Chinese customers will account for 44 percent of all global luxury sales by 2020, a substantial increase from the current 15 percent.

### Market watch

## How to play China's Internet stocks

Bubble or no, China's Internet companies are crashing back into reality.

The prices of Renren, Jiayuan and Youku dropped below their initial offerings just days after their shining debuts.

Economist Zhao Xiao said the media has helped this round of frenzy. Before their IPOs, most Chinese Internet stocks were touted

as the Chinese equivalents of popular sites like Facebook, MySpace, Groupon and Twitter.

Though they are less innovative than their foreign start-ups, the name dropping alone was enough to make bankers drool and investors open their wallets.

A recent *Economist* editorial warned that investors should be cautious of buying Internet

stocks, especially those issued by Chinese companies.

They face a different policy environment and soaring inflationary pressure, it said.

As investors' zest cools, they have begun to think about the Internet stocks and have come to understand what these companies really are, it said.

Zhao said investors should be

cautious about newly listed Chinese stocks, but to hold onto any stocks they already own.

The market can remain irrational a lot longer than you can remain solvent, Zhao cited economist John Maynard Keynes as saying.

But just make sure you have an exit strategy for when the bubble breaks, Zhao said.

# Should a professor focus on teaching only?

By Zhao Hongyi

Yin Xiaobing is an assistant professor at the Institute of Commerce and Tourism Management in Yunnan University and board member of three publicly listed companies.

He always drives his 500,000-yuan BMW to class and has a cell phone number that has seven 8s in it – ultra-lucky, in Chinese culture, and as far as custom numbers go, very expensive.

In his estimation, he uses a third of his time and effort in teaching.

At a national seminar of college professors recently, he said, "Teaching well is basic, but teachers cannot focus on teaching. Doing so would destroy yourself while propping up the future of your students."

His view runs counter to the traditional Chinese idea of what a teacher should do. Confucius,

2,500 years ago, said that being a teacher is glorious and that teachers should use all their efforts to pass along knowledge to students.

Teachers have previously enjoyed high status in society. They have been described as a candle: burning oneself to give light to others.

But values are beginning to change.

"We cannot rely on low teacher salaries and deal with students all day," Yin said. "We should make more contributions in our fields."

Yin's opinion is shared by many professors who are more interested in off-campus activities than those on campus.

Yin referred to a commonly recognized caste system among educators: at the bottom of the pyramid are teachers who use all their time in class; in the middle

are assistant professors who can apply for research projects; and on the top are professors who devote their time to administrative jobs and titles that pay better and carry more management responsibilities.

Those who are at the bottom of the pyramid are the unsuccessful ones, as the perception goes.

In light of these comments, many people objected, saying it's time to refocus on education.

But others agree with Yin's view. They said the teaching industry can also be affected by the market economy, which is why teachers are sometimes compelled to make money as well.

Dong Fan, a professor at Beijing Normal University, recently wrote on his blog that he wants his students to become rich, otherwise he wants no contact with them.

## Comment

### Full salary necessary?

It is normal for college educators, especially professors, to stop focusing on their classes. I wonder how much professor Yin spends on his classes. We used to describe teachers as a candle, but today, many of them use money to measure their success. If Yin spends only a third of his time on teaching, why should he be paid his full salary?

– Zhu Shaohua, commentator, Changjiang Daily

### Time to adjust

Many professors are trying to obtain social resources, income and titles at the expense of teaching. It's the result of them chasing promotions and money. Administrators who control budgets and resources can help the matter by rewarding professors who actually do good worth both in

and out of the classroom. It's time to readjust standards.

– Xu Min, commentator, Jiefang Daily

### No masters

Pursuing money will inevitably damage the educational and moral standards we have used throughout history. I wonder what higher education in China will become.

– Tao Xianglong, commentator, Xinmin Evening News

### Acceptable

An individual can play many roles in life, such as a worker, husband, father, son and teacher. People are able to multitask. The basic and crucial point here is how well Yin does as an assistant professor. If he's truly slacking, the university would have reason to fire him.

– Wang Jun, professor, Peking University

# At what threshold should people start paying taxes?

By Xinji Letu

With increasing pressure on individuals due to inflation and rising living costs, calls for a higher minimum threshold on individual income taxes are growing, especially in light of the widening income gap.

Starting April 25, a draft amendment to the Personal Income Tax Law was posted on the official website of the National People's Congress (NPC) to solicit opinion. Within a month, the draft attracted more than 230,000 comments, a new record for feedback volume.

According to the draft, the minimum threshold for the personal income tax will be increased from 2,000 yuan to 3,000 yuan per month, while the number of income tax brackets will be reduced from nine to seven.

Many netizens thought the move was too modest. Many residents of big cities such as Beijing and Shanghai believe 3,000 yuan as a minimum salary is relatively low, given the skyrocketing housing prices and other living costs. A survey conducted by ifeng.com revealed that while 97.8 percent of all respondents support the move to raise the threshold, 88.5 percent think it should be elevated to 5,000 yuan per month.

Experts and scholars argued that raising the income tax threshold would fail to narrow the income gap.

Feedback will be accepted until the end of this month. The amendment may be further revised on the basis of public opinion.

China introduced personal income taxes in 1980 with a threshold of 800 yuan. This threshold was doubled in 2006 and was raised to 2,000 yuan in 2008.



Calls for a higher minimum threshold on individual income taxes are growing.

Wang Qi/CFP Photo

## Comment

### Current system is fine

I don't think the threshold should change. For low-income people, a higher threshold will have little impact on their salary, but those with more money will be able to claim more tax exemptions.

China should implement a comprehensive taxation system that doesn't distinguish between sources of income so as to avoid further widening income disparity.

– Tian Jiaguang, financial planning adviser

### 3,000 yuan per month is good threshold

I think 3,000 yuan is appropriate. In many Western countries, the income tax threshold is very low. I suggest deciding the threshold by taking average per capita consumption spending into account. In my calculation, 3,000 yuan is enough.

If a higher threshold was approved, there would be fewer people to pay taxes, resulting in reduced national tax revenue. In addition, it will hardly play a role in adjusting people's income

if the threshold is too high.

– An Tifu, professor at Renmin University

### Protect the middle class

I have long been pointing out that we should focus on comprehensive results rather than minimum thresholds for income tax. Simply raising the threshold will not achieve the desired results. The draft amendment's fatal flaw is that a piece of legislation intended to redistribute income will fail to do that and fail to nurture China's middle class.

### Minimum threshold should be higher

In my opinion, 5,000 yuan per month is reasonable for the minimum threshold. If it was that high, I wouldn't have to pay any income tax! Nowadays, there is a huge income gap in China. It is unfair to tax those who only earn several thousand yuan a month, especially in the face of increasing living costs.

– Fu Chang, editor

# Paper-cut art, Italian style

By Chu Meng

Paper-cut art, or *jianzhi*, is a handicraft art created during the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220), extant practically right after paper was invented. Though it has spread around the world, its arrival in Italy was much belated – or at least it seemed.

Claudio Diatto, who held his first paper cut exhibition on the Chinese mainland

tural Center in Beijing, said he was inspired not by Chinese paper-cut art, but Italian.

"It's a shame I didn't know much about Chinese paper cut until someone told me at an exhibition in Italy about it," he said.

His works, called "Borderline," inadvertently compares traditional Chinese *jianzhi* with the "new pop version" of this art.

The paper cuts in Borderline differ from Chinese paper cuts mainly in two ways.

First, Chinese ones are mostly made on red paper and used to decorate windows or doors during festivals. But Diatto's works employ 12 bright colors, including lemon yellow, grass green, sky blue, purple, pink and orange.

"Those are all typical colors used in cartoons and children's books. Childish and light-hearted are the first impressions I hope to give," said the 68-year-old artist.

"Different colors indicate different emotions I want to express. I only use red when I want to express sadness."

Second, Chinese patterns are sophisticated and folk characters are exaggerated and distorted with wavy lines. Diatto's paper cuts, meanwhile, portray cartoon-style figures with straight and simple lines.

Forests, starry skies, hearts, men, women and children often appear in Diatto's work.

Audiences are often attracted by Diatto's colorful butterflies, a figure that appears in Chinese kites. Diatto's butterflies, indeed, are similar in pattern and color, but the artist said he wasn't modeling his creatures off any in particular.

"The butterfly symbolizes beauty, honesty and love in Italy," Diatto said. "I put patterns of forests, skies, mountains, villages and dogs onto one of the butterflies in order to express my wish to create a happy, child-like world for adults."

The final difference between Chinese paper cuts and Diatto's is Chinese paper cuts are mostly based off folk tales. The patterns in Diatto's works, on the other hand, are mostly inspired by the French philosopher and mathematician Rene Descartes.

Diatto read all of Descartes' works when he was an architect

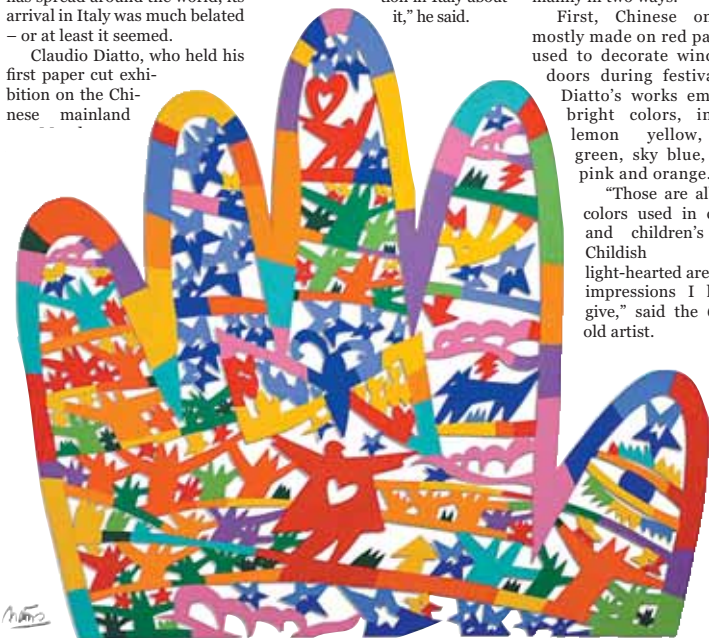


Claudio Diatto

student in college. After graduation, his fascination with silk, canvas, sketching and painting became too powerful to ignore, and he decided to not pursue employment at architectural firms.

The forest in Diatto's paper cuts show Descartes' influence, notably his maxim that one should "follow resolutely even doubtful opinions when sure opinions were not available, just as the traveler, lost in some forest, had better walk straight forward, though in a chance direction; for thus he will arrive, if not precisely where he desires to be, at least at a better place than the middle of a forest."

Descartes wants to "encourage people who are facing pressure or bitterness to keep walking straight forward, with a light-hearted mind, even a little bit of childishness," Diatto said.



Photos provided by Claudio Diatto

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# Irish embassy holds Open Day for Chinese students

By Wei Xi

As part of 2011 EU-China Year of Youth activities, the Embassy of Ireland opened to the public Monday and received more than 100 Chinese students.

Activities began at 2 pm with an exhibition on Irish culture, education and tourism, seminars, a concert and dances. Guests were treated to drinks and traditional Irish snacks.

Irish Ambassador Declan Kelleher, gave a presentation about his country and China-Ireland relations. His humorous speech put the audience at ease, which eventually got around to asking him questions.

Alan Buckley, China director of Enterprise Ireland, gave a seminar on Irish higher education. He talked about universities in his home country, curriculums and study environments.

The ambassador then awarded prizes to winners of the Embassy of Ireland Essay Competition.

Blackwater performed traditional Irish music for the Chinese

students, and was joined in dance by siblings Christy and Erin Jensen, ages 12 and 10.

In the past year, the Jensens have been invited to dance at the Forbidden City and Beijing Exhibition Center.

"I had planned to pursue post-graduate study in the US or UK, but now I think Ireland is also a good choice," said Zhu Xiaodi, a freshman at Beijing Language and Culture University.

Zhu said the Open Day was a very good opportunity for the public to get a deeper understanding of the country.

Kelleher, who has visited various universities in China, agreed with that sentiment.

"The Chinese young students were enthusiastic, intelligent and very informed," he said. "I very much like talking with them, and I also learned a lot from them."

Kelleher said he would hold future activities because they "definitely enhance the relationship between Ireland and China."



Irish ambassador Declan Kelleher talking with Chinese students.

Photo provided by Echo Lin

## European businesses perform well in competitive China market

By Zhao Hongyi

European companies in China achieved growth both in revenue and profit in an increasingly competitive market, but have growing concerns over the regulatory environment, according to the European Chamber Business Confidence Survey 2011, an annual report conducted by the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China and Roland Berger Strategy Consultants.

China is increasingly regarded as a strategically important market by European companies, with 78 percent of respondents reporting an increase in revenue and 71 percent reporting an increase in net profits. Seventy-nine percent are optimistic about business growth outlook in China because of China's strong economic recovery from the financial crisis and the country's 12th Five-Year Plan scheduled to start next year.

Fifty-seven percent of the

companies surveyed said China has become an important market in their global strategy and 59 percent plan to increase their investments in China in the next two years.

Forty percent believe the market in China is becoming more competitive. They are confident in the advantages of product quality, product innovation and design, management efficiency, process management and operations, and brand recognition against the native Chinese companies. But disadvantages include government relations, pricing, access to subsidies and tax incentives, access to financing and economies of scale.

Fifty-seven percent of European companies in China surveyed say they have difficulty finding appropriately skilled native talents and 21 percent complained their native employees hold higher expectations of salary and bonus.

Concerning the challenges in the market, 88 percent believe that rule of law, transparent policymaking and implementation are the top priorities for Chinese authorities to maintain their dynamic economic status. Eighty-seven percent said domestic consumption is the key and 83 percent demand fairer competition and fewer monopolies.

Forty-two percent complained they have encountered discretionary enforcement of broadly drafted laws and regulations. Forty percent say China lacks coordination of different regulators. Thirty-nine percent believe the country lacks harmonization with global standards in policy implementation. Thirty-eight percent report they have met difficulties in their registration processes of their companies and products. Thirty-five percent say they found problems in the local implementation of Chinese national standards.

Most of companies expressed greater optimism regarding regulators' willingness to make changes in the spirit of the World Trade Organization agreement at the central government level, but local implementation was another issue.

"The European industry has invested heavily in China and is well-positioned to contribute to China's economic development," said Davide Cucino, the newly elected president of the chamber.

Cucino said companies are demanding a fairer business environment with equal treatment and market access, not preferential treatment.

"European companies should try to find what the local clients and consumers demand and continue to differentiate their products and services if they want to keep their advantages in the increasingly competitive market in China," said Charles-Edouard

Bouee, Asia President of Roland Berger Strategy Consultants.

Founded by 51 European companies active in China in 2000, the European Union Chamber of Commerce has more than 1,600 European member companies with investment and production in the country and seven subsidiaries in Beijing, Chengdu, Nanjing, Guangzhou-Shenzhen, Shanghai and Tianjin.

In 2004, the chamber started the annual survey of business performance, environment and outlook together with Roland Berg. This year, 598 companies received their survey in March and April.

As before, the chamber stresses that it is an independent voice of European businesses in China and will present the survey results to Chinese authorities and the EU Commission for policymaking reference. Its goal is to help create a better business environment.

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# National Ultimate Frisbee tournament helps burgeoning sport

By Chu Meng

The fifth annual China Nationals Ultimate Frisbee tournament was held in Beijing last weekend with a team from Hong Kong unseating the defending champions, Tianjin Speed, to win the 16-team Chinese division.

Five foreign teams participated as well, with a local team called Big Brother winning the foreign division.

Currently, only a few Chinese people have a clear sense of what Ultimate Frisbee is, because for years – even in the US, where Ultimate was invented in the 1960s – it has been considered an “alternative sport.”

But Ultimate has been in Beijing for more than 10 years.

“Ultimate Frisbee, first appeared in Beijing in the mid-’90s among a small group of expats,” said James Kirchhoff, one of the captains and founding members of Big Brother. “There were so few players that we had to sometimes convince our van drivers to play with us.”

Today, there are six teams in Beijing, including two separate Big Brother teams.

The first China Nationals tournament was organized by a group of foreigners in 2007. It has grown every year, with this year’s competition being the biggest yet, with close to 400 participants from around the country.

“China Nationals is a tournament to highlight the growth, development and achievements of local Chinese players,” said Alicia Lui, 29, one of the tournament’s organizers.

For the first time this year, an extra trophy was awarded to the “C Bracket” champion as a way of encouraging more inexperienced teams to keep coming back.

The tournament also awarded



Anthony Tao, left, of Big Brother, prepares to throw a pass in the China Nationals foreign division finals. He is guarded by Ken Dry.

Photo by Michelle Tang

a “Spirit” trophy to the team that best embodied the “Spirit of the Game,” a concept unique to Ultimate Frisbee – a self-officiated sport – that emphasizes sportsmanship and fair play.

A national organization created last year called the Ultimate Association of China – currently headed by expats, though Chinese players are on the board – further seeks to promote the sport.

“If the local players can take ownership of the game, it will continue to grow and spread across the country,” Kirchhoff said.

Kirchhoff, an American, has lived in Beijing in eight of the last 10 years. He said that many players, especially in Beijing, have taken time to teach locals how to play.

Kirchhoff saw an ad in a local English-language magazine for Ultimate in 2003. Having played in college, he decided it would be a great way to meet other foreigners living in Beijing.

One year later, he co-founded Big Brother.

“These early foreign players act as ambassadors for the sport and have a lot of knowledge that needs

to be shared with local players. Now there are teams in more than 15 cities in China,” Kirchhoff said.

Most of Big Brother’s players are expats between the ages of 22 and 45. Other teams in Beijing – these mostly comprise local players – include Bang, Hangtime, Bazinga and Air Kazak.

Edward Wang, captain of Tianjin Speed, is a coach at Tianjin Teda International School. He first found out about Ultimate from foreign friends about eight years ago.

When he started Tianjin Speed, it was one of the only

Chinese Ultimate Frisbee teams around. In each of the first two China Nationals, Tianjin lost in the finals to Air Kazak, a team of ethnic Kazakhs who attend Minzu University in Beijing.

Wang spoke proudly of how the sport has sprung up in many other cities in the past two years, such as Changsha, Nanjing and Wuhan.

“[Many of the new teams] participated in the tournament this year,” he said. “I love to see my teammates and students go out and spread the seeds of Ultimate to help this sport grow in China.”

## Learning about Old Beijing over whiskey



Wu Sangui, or Larsulrik Thom, at his postcard store

Photo provided by Wu Sangui

By Wei Xi

Last night at Aluss Bar, Larsulrik Thom – he prefers people to use his Chinese name, Wu Sangui – a Danish man and owner of a postcard store, and Harold Broese, a Dutch manager of the import and distribution company XIX Spirit, held a whiskey party to honor Old Beijing.

Wu showed off a collection of Beijing postcards he accumulated over seven years of living here.

Over the years, he and his Chinese friends have also collected thousands of old Beijing maps and pictures, and traveled to different places to interview locals about the stories behind the keepsakes.

Wu said the younger generation has forgotten Old Beijing.

“Most of the pictures were taken by foreigners 10 or more years ago,” Wu said. “Some of them were bought from auctions, some from missionaries and some collected from flea markets like Panjiayuan.”

Wu was able to obtain the

stories behind the pictures from picture owners, elderly Beijingers and history books.

“This is a picture of the Drum Tower,” Wu said. “An old man living in the neighborhood told me that it used to be a free cinema, and he used to watch films in it, but the films were rather awful.”

Pointing to a picture of a man making a phone call, Wu said, “This was taken in a photo studio in Beijing’s Dashila area in the 1920s or ’30s. I looked for material about that time and found the Chinese newspaper *Shenbao* had a report in 1881 about the marvelous wonder of telecommunication: ‘You lift one end and speak into the receiver, the sound is transmitted to the other end, which the listener places against his ear.’”

As Wu told these stories, his eyes shone and he waved his arms and stamped his feet, as if talking about his own family’s valuables.

In order to make the old pictures and maps open to the

public, Wu opened a shop four years ago called Beijing Postcards, which sells copies of the pictures of Old Beijing. He did it after a friend said it’d be a pity if he was the only one who could see the old pictures.

On the back of each postcard is a caption explaining the image.

Wu is also more than happy to share stories with anyone in his shop.

“I think you have to first know Beijing to know China,” he said.

Wu got his Chinese name from a senior general in the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911).

“Wu Sangui was a controversial person in history,” he said. “He might be described as a hero if he successfully overthrew the king. This name reminds me to look at history from different perspectives.”

Wu said that old maps are like whiskeys: they contain much more than what meets the eye.

“So I think those that like whiskey would also like the stories behind the maps,” he said.

# Counting the capital's interesting museums

You might have missed it, but the 35th International Museum Day happened on May 18, and this year it was themed "museums and memories."

Beijing has its share of museums for both children and adults. *Beijing Today* recommends the following as places to expand your knowledge and have fun with friends and family.

## China National Film Museum

The China National Film Museum is known for having the city's largest IMAX screen. The four-story museum has 20 exhibitions that showcase the history of Chinese cinema. Through expos, lectures and public exchanges, the museum promotes understanding of the movie-making process. People can also experience the "synthesis and dubbing of digital special effects" and "scene shooting" – very helpful for aspiring filmmakers.

When: 9 am – 4:30 pm

Where: 9 Nanyang Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 5165 4567

Cost: free for the museum, movie ticket prices vary

## China Tank Museum

As the only tank museum in Asia, his museum showcases the history of the People's Liberation Army's armored force, tanks from other countries and the development and future of tanks.

Several tank-driving simulators make up the museum's best part. A shooting simulator is also in the museum.

Where: unit 88372, Nanyang Lu, Yangfang Town, Changping District

When: 9 am – 4:30 pm

Tel: 6976 7901

Cost: 18 yuan

## Vintage Car Museum

This museum was built by



Inside China Tank Museum

Xiao Yi/CFP Photo

Luo Wen, the first person to collect vintage cars in China. There are 160 vintage cars in this museum, including China's early automobile industry representatives, the "Dongfanghong" car, the first generation of the 210 military SUV, the first generation of "Fenghuang," France's Citroen, Germany's Mercedes and the US' Dodge.

Where: 19 Fengxiangyi Park, Yangsong Town, Huairou District

When: 9 am – 4:30 pm

Tel: 6230 3127

Cost: 50 yuan

## Kongzhu Museum

There are 438 kongzhu, known as diabolos or Chinese yo-yos outside of China, in various styles and sizes at this museum. The digital museum aims to bring kongzhu to more people. The museum has received nearly 20,000 visitors

since it was founded last year.

Where: 9 Xiaoxing Lane, Baoguo Temple, Xuanwu District

When: 9 am – 4:30 pm

Tel: 8316 5726

Cost: free

## Cui Yongping Shadow Puppet Museum

To pass down this precious Chinese legacy, shadow puppet artist Cui Yongping and his wife exhausted all their savings to collect 30,000 pieces about the art from all parts of the country. The "museum" is actually just a 200-square-meter room, with 500 puppet heads on display along with performing props and scripts. The art, invented 2,000 years ago, gets new life here.

Where: 1st floor, unit 4, Building 16, Jinqiao Park, Majuqiao, Tongzhou District.

When: 9 am – 5 pm

Tel: 6050 2692

Cost: 20 yuan

## Watermelon Museum of China

The Watermelon Museum of China covers an area of 22,000 square meters and is the first specialized museum to focus on China's melon culture. Shaped like a great watermelon propped up by two large green leaves, the museum's architecture is eye-catching. Inside are vivid displays of watermelons. No, seriously. Outside of the exhibition area, several dozens of valuable watermelon varieties grow.

Where: Sweet Watermelon Experimental Park, Pangge Zhuang, Daxing District

When: 9 am – 5 pm

Tel: 8928 1181

Cost: 20 yuan

(By Yao Weijie)

## ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: [weiyang@ynet.com](mailto:weiyang@ynet.com)

I am new to Beijing and was told not to drink the tap water, so can anyone suggest some good bottled waters?

There are a number of brand names at local supermarkets, such as Chinese brands Nongfu Spring, Robust and Master Kong. You can also find some global brands like Nestle, Evian and C'est Bon.

For your home, try buying a German-made Brita water filter from home appliance stores.

I have been in Beijing for a year and a half and am beginning to miss Canadian poutine. Does anyone know where can I find a good Canadian restaurant or just the dish?

A hutong bar run by a Canadian called the Box (5 Qianmachang Hutong, Jiu Gulou Dajie, Xicheng District) will have it. It sells Canadian beers and cocktails as well.

Where can I take a driving course in Beijing? I can speak a little Chinese, but I prefer an English driving course. I have never been behind the wheel of a car, so I hope the course can start in an open area first and not the roads.

The Oriental Fashion driving school offers English driving courses, but it is a little far away in Daxing District (look for shuttle buses to take you there). The cost is 8,000 yuan if you take the shuttle bus and 12,000 yuan if you want to be picked up by private cars. For more information, visit [dfss.com.cn](http://dfss.com.cn) or call its hotline at 5806 1999.

(By Wei Xi)

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# Chinese scents pervade Venice

## Inside the China Pavilion at 2011 Venice Biennale

By Li Zhilin

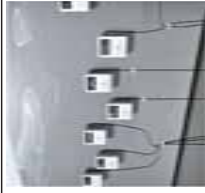
The 54th International Art Exhibition at La Biennale di Venezia opens June 4 at the Aserale and Giardini. Peng Feng, curator of the China Pavilion, will lead five Chinese artists – Cai Zhisong, Liang Yuanwei, Pan Gongkai, Yang Maoyuan and Yuan Gong – to participate in the art carnival. In order to help visitors understand the core theme of the pavilion, *Beijing Today* interviewed Peng on the eve of his departure to learn more about this upcoming exhibition.



Liang Yuanwei's I Plead: Rain



Pan Gongkai's Rong (Melting)



Yuan Gong's Empty Incessant

Visitors looking for the former armory, the site of the China Pavilion at the Venice Biennale will be greeted by the huge, "artificial clouds" created by artist Cai Zhisong. His white-painted timber-like devices are made of steel and house wind chimies and tea.

When rocked by the wind, the clouds emit the scent of tea and the sound of the wind chimies to create what Cai describes as a "dreamy, Zen-like atmosphere."

The exotic display is one of five based on Chinese culture: tea, lotus, liquor, incense and herbal medicine.

Liang Yuanwei's work, *I Plead: Rain*, is a liquid-cycle device that drops humming, a low-proof yellow drink made from fermented grain, into a small, ornate, white ceramic vessel.

Pan Gongkai's *Rong (Melting)* is a 20-meter-long low-temperature corridor filled with lotuses, a symbol of austerity in Chinese culture. On the walls are Pan's ink-paintings of lotuses, onto which are projected images from *On the Border of Western Modern Art*, symbolizing cultural coexistence.

*Things are Visible*, Yang Maoyuan's sculptural work, is a large, white, textured sculpture filled with herbal medicines like *fengqi* and *huaxiang* zhenqi.

Yuan Gong's *Empty Incessant* is a device which combines incense and electronics. The scent is dispersed from nine sources to permeate the pavilion. Light fog is shown on an MP4 player.

Pan's display is inspired by Zen Buddhism, which teaches that form is emptiness and emptiness is form.

The displays are all interpretations of this year's biennale theme, "ILLUMINATIONS."

"Illumination is a basic concept in Christian culture that is explained as divine enlightenment. In Chinese culture, illumination is more explained by signs and symbols that help people accumulate and disperse *qi* (life energy)," said

Peng, deputy director of Peking University Aesthetic Research Center.

"Beauty is usually defined by light in Western aesthetics, but Chinese aestheticians find a closer relationship between beauty and taste."

"Beauty in Chinese is represented by a big, fat sheep. The illumination of light in Western tradition can be understood in China in the context of flavor," he said.

The concept of five tastes, sweet, sour, bitter, pungent and salty, is closely related to the five elements of nature – wood, fire, earth, metal and water – the ancient belief that all things are composed of metal, wood, water, fire and earth. The artists in turn apply this to create exhibits that tantalize the five senses.

"We hope to create an intense experience of emotion that melts through national boundaries. We hope it will bring visitors closer to remote Chinese culture."

Consistent with this plan for the China Pavilion and dealing with the venue's restrictions was a brain-racking challenge for Peng.

The dark and damp Arsenal, where the pavilion is located, houses huge oil tanks that leak of diesel and eat up all the space. It was hard to imagine a visual work that would not be tainted by these tanks.

That's when he touched on overpowering the area's scent.

The idea came to him when he used Chinese herbs to help one of his students understand American contemporary art critic Arthur Danto's post-history' interpretation of art.

"Danto says that old works can be regrouped into new categories of contemporary art, which is similar to Chinese medicine," he said. "The herbs used to cure certain ailments never change, but they can be combined with other herbs to cure more conditions."

He gradually came to associate the smells of liquor, tea and medicine as embodying the Chinese spirit.

It is so obviously silly to use a bigger or more powerful thing to compete with the smell of the

oil tanks. Chinese philosophy doesn't advocate overpowering something with a greater force, but rather, to use it as a water breaking through a rock," he said.

Peng said he also tried to explore two major issues through the exhibition: the relationship between concept and feeling and between traditional and contemporary art.

"The exhibitions at the China Pavilion are concept art, as they convey not only the concept of Chinese culture but also the ways to understand Chinese philosophy," he said.

Peng said he does not like to distinguish between traditional and contemporary art. He said he prefers to use the exhibitions to explore modern use of traditional elements.

The traditional elements we used are still alive in our daily lives, he said. For example, the type that traditional tea has to be fully split from contemporary art," he said.

"In the age of globalization, artistic expression should demonstrate the intellectual level of modern people instead of being tied up with such a trivial argument."

Peng said the works were also anti-business, as they could not be collected or sold: when the smell fades, their life ends.

Chinese contemporary art has experienced three stages in the last three decades: in the 1980s, artists engaged in blind imitation of the West. In the 1990s, many Chinese artists went to the US to study Western art and rediscover the value of Chinese art in multicultural North America, but even these artists' works were made primarily for foreign consumers.

"After the economic crisis that Chinese artists began to act on their own and explore their own cultural roots," he said.

Peng said he expects this year's unique exhibition to go down in biennale history.

This year's China Pavilion will give Chinese culture a modern footing and seek to create extensive, honest connections with other nations," he said.



Yang Maoyuan's All Things are Visible

Photos provided by Peng Feng

# Telling the story of 19th-century China

By Xinji Letu

The First Opium Wars (1840-1842) began a century of humiliation for China. The memory of the era's defeat and ensuing abuse is an important element in modern Chinese nationalism and identity, but the period is "not well-known in the West, especially in Britain," said Robert Bickers, a professor of history at the University of Bristol and author of *The Scramble for China: Foreign Devils in the Qing Empire, 1832-1914*.

The book tells the epic story of an "era of degradation of China." He begins in 1832, the year British ships sailed into forbidden Chinese waters, and ends at 1914, three years after the collapse of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

His grand narration focuses on China's interaction with foreigners in 19th century, in particular with the British, who played a pioneering role in tearing apart the country.

"The 80-year period from the 1830s to 1910s is an account of the rise of foreign powers, concessions and their communities in China," said Robert Bickers at Kubrick Bookstore in Beijing on Monday.

Bickers said the book was about how the power relationship developed and why; it was also about different levels of understandings and actual knowledge of the history of

China — especially in Europe.

"Today it takes me two hours on a plane to come here (Beijing) from Shanghai, but it took the first British about 20 years with the aid of the French," said Bickers. "In that period, many British people in Shanghai and Hong Kong were obsessed with getting into Beijing."

The defeat in the Opium Wars has long been seen as a tragedy and national disgrace by Chinese.

The lasting effects remain crystal clear: the Qing Dynasty lost its independence, Chinese ports were opened to foreign ships, Hong Kong was ceded to Britain and the country was forced to empty its coffers paying out war indemnities.

"In the era of degradation, one thing that interests me the most is national humiliation and its role in the presentation of Chinese poppies the last 130 years," Bickers said.

The semi-colonial history of China is poorly understood in the West. Bickers gave the example of last November, when British Prime Minister David Cameron visited Beijing wearing a poppy flower in remembrance of the fallen soldiers of World War I. "In China, the poppy has a completely different connotation, and a foreign affairs official should be sensitive to this."

Bickers said the book was not written for historians but for average

readers. "It is a book about people, the history that people made and how they made it," he said. The book tries to explain "who came to China and why, what they did in China and what China did to them."

He mentioned that one of the interesting things he found in working on the book was that, wherever it went, Britain had a sense of exclusion and was unable to ever establish an equal relationship.

Historians now view the 19th century as the beginning of globalization: the telegraph could send news back and forth within a day and Europeans spread out all over the globe. This part of history, Bickers believes, is essential to understanding British and European history.

The painful century has had and continues to have far-reaching consequences for China's relationship with the world. With the resurgence of China on the world stage, understanding the 19th century may be essential to understanding China's response to modern international affairs.

"History left us a slow, burning problem in European and North American relations with China. The Japanese invasion in some ways makes China's relations with Japan easier than with European and North America, but I think our time may come some day in the future," Bickers said.

## ROBERT BICKERS *The Scramble for CHINA*

*Foreign Devils in the Qing Empire, 1832-1914*



**The Scramble for China: Foreign Devils in the Qing Empire, 1832-1914**

By Robert Bickers, 512pp, Allen Lane, \$45

## Father's odyssey through college admissions

By Charles Zhu

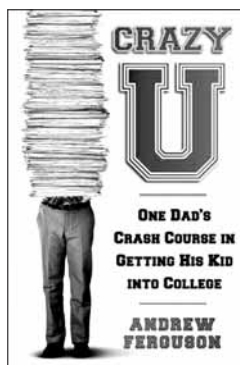
The cutthroat competition to get into an ideal college can drive students to the brink of madness and push their parents over the edge.

The experience is recalled by Andrew Ferguson, a senior editor at *The Weekly Standard* and a father, who seems to have roiled the collective gut with his book *Crazy U: One Dad's Crash Course in Getting His Kid Into College*.

Ferguson has done his research, poring over mountains of published material and interviewing admissions officers, college coaches and academics. This book is designed to provide a frank, critical and hilarious chronicle of the journey that millions of parents and their kids undertake each year, an odyssey through the all-too-tense rituals of college admissions.

Ferguson has always had the worry that a single misstep could cost his son a shot at a happy and fulfilling future. He was nervous from the moment the first college brochures landed in his mailbox. First was a visit with the hottest private college consultant in the nation. Then came the steps familiar to parents and their college-bound children: sessions with the high school counselor, time-consuming preparations for the SAT and help from essay coaches and admissions directors, endless campus tours and the agonizing and seemingly endless wait for a response.

Ferguson first targets college rankings prepared by publications like *US News & World Report* and the colleges that love to hate



**Crazy U: One Dad's Crash Course in Getting His Kid Into College**

By Andrew Ferguson, 240pp, Simon & Schuster, \$25

them. He sarcastically castigates the hypocrisy of colleges that pretend to loathe the guide books that rank them, and yet if they are ranked high, they "wave it around like a bride's garter belt."

He provides a brief history of higher education in America, gives an account of the college ranking wars, higher-education marketing and why it all costs so much. Along the way comes a new father-and-son relationship that grows from shared anxiety. In the meantime, the boy can serve to teach the father about what matters in life, about trusting your instincts and about finding your own way.

The book gives the tortured

history of the SAT and how it has become "the most passionately controversial element in the world of college admissions." Ferguson said the SAT is regarded as a liberal reform — a breakthrough for meritocracy, a way to do away with the old-boy network that created barrier for minorities and the underprivileged.

As for college costs, the author recalls that his annual tuition bill in 1978 at the small liberal-arts college he attended was \$5,100. Adjusted for inflation, the price tag today would be \$16,500 — far less than the \$40,000 his alma mater now charges.

According to College Board handouts and estimates, there is an estimated \$143 billion in financial aid available to students. "Maybe it's good news that \$143 billion was available for aid. But isn't it bad news that we need the \$143 billion in the first place?" he writes.

Though the book is full of heartache, it is still a pleasure to read. Ferguson's storytelling is marvelous, taking lessons from Mark Twain and Tom Wolfe.

There are funny anecdotes between the overtly obsessive father and his independent-minded son. For instance, why do high school kids look so disoriented on SAT day? It is not because of the test. It is because their cell-phones have been pried from their itchy hands.

Ferguson's book on subject matter is the calm, hilarious, humorous, amusing and low-key reading much needed by parents who are struggling with the admissions process.

## Bookworm book listing

The Bookworm recommends the following bestsellers to *Beijing Today* readers.

**Visit from the Goon Squad**

By Jennifer Egan, 352pp, Anchor, \$14.95

Bennie is an aging former punk rocker and record executive. Sasha is the passionate, troubled young woman he employs. Jennifer Egan reveals their pasts, along with the inner lives of a host of other characters whose paths intersect.

**The Good Book: A Humanist Bible**

By A. C. Grayling, 608pp, Walker & Company, \$35

Organized in 12 main sections — Genesis, Histories, Wisdom, The Sages, Parables, Consolations, Lamentations, Proverbs, Songs, Epistles, Acts, and the Good — The Good Book opens with meditations on the origin and progress of the world and human life, then devotes attention to the question of how life should be lived, how we relate to one another and how vicissitudes are to be faced and joys appreciated.

**Great House: A Novel**

By Nicole Krauss, 289pp, W. W. Norton & Company, \$24.95

For 25 years, a reclusive American novelist has been writing at the desk she inherited from a young Chilean poet who disappeared at the hands of Pinochet's secret police; one day a girl claiming to be the poet's daughter arrives to take it away, sending the writer's life reeling. Across the ocean, in the leafy suburbs of London, a man caring for his dying wife discovers, among her papers, a lock of hair that unravels a terrible secret. In Jerusalem, an antiques dealer slowly reassembles his father's study, plundered by the Nazis in Budapest in 1944.

(By He Jianwei)



# Get bit by the collecting bug!

By Chu Meng

Whether it's the diamonds hoarded by European royals or the skulls picked up by wartime biologists, everyone collects. Most personal collections hone in on a specific category of oddities that carries a personal meaning to the collector.

Whether you collect to seek inspiration or remember the past, collecting can be an excellent activity to relieve stress and dig up the best of your old memories.



An American meat grinder  
Photos provided  
by Raphael Kao

## Raphael Kao, collector of European meat grinders

Raphael Kao is one of Taiwan's top graphic designers. But it's his secret life as a collector of oddities that brings him more attention. Kao saves lizard specimens, Glico cookie boxes, rusty iron boxes and small medical instruments.

But his top collection is an assortment of European iron meat grinders made in the 1950s and 1960s. He hangs the trophies on the walls of his home and design studio.

"Collecting of discarded goods was a childhood habit. I began my first collection with used pencil tops in elementary school. I also have a box of French subway stubs I saved during my college days," he said.

Kao doesn't splurge to buy his relics — they come from daily collection.

It was during his four years at the French National Advanced School of Decorative Arts and the following six years as a decorative designer for French Union for Artists that Kao began his meat grinders collection.

"The first one I saw was through a kitchen window in a countryside restaurant. It was beautiful and smelled of industrial production," Kao said. "I started to ask chefs for their old grinders and bought them from vendors at open-air markets."

Unlike pots and spoons, which have been used for thousands of years, the meat grinder is a transitional product. It was created at the dawn of mass production when people began expecting finer food and more meat.

The first grinders were used in butcher shops in the 1920s, and later on became a common household appliance. They faded from use in the 1970s.

"Grinders are really a relic of industrialization. By looking at the changes in their design, I can see how culinary culture transformed during that period of time," he said.

His first meat grinder was produced during the 1920s — many of the blades had gone to rust and it was no longer usable. It had a porcelain inner bladder to make it easier to use and more resistant to rust, and it helped prevent the meat from taking on an iron taste.

In the 1960s, the casing began to be adorned with beautiful patterns. Some were also painted. Buttons labeling them as fine, medium fine and rough began appearing at that time.

"As a designer, I can always draw inspiration from my collection. Few realize that the French auto maker Peugeot got its start making meat and coffee grinders," Kao said.



Raphael Kao's  
favorite piece purchased in France.  
Each meat grinder  
has its own brand  
and name.



## Starting a collection

Cheng Xiao, a 26-year-old Beijinger who runs his own home office, has taken in nine stray cats and collected more than 500 cat-shaped decorations and toys. She has a six-step plan for creating unique collections.

**1. Figure out what interests** you recent fascinations can help. Think about collecting foreign coins or bus tickets. Start with something encountered in daily life.

**2. Make a list of everything** that fascinates you and start with whatever is most affordable. If you collect more than you can afford, you won't be able to collect for very long. If you are collecting things to sell in the future, try to pick things with the most price growth potential.

**3. Decide what is easiest to collect.** If a particular item is difficult to access, then it's best if you don't collect it. It's hard to collect Hong Kong subway tickets if you only visit Hong Kong once every five years.

**4. Tell your friends and family about your collection.** If any of them are frequent travelers, they will be able to help you expand your collection.

**5. Keep the collection unique.** Cheng suggests focusing on only one theme, such as Airport Express Line tickets, Disneyland Line tickets or special edition tickets connected to certain events. Stick to unfolded, quality items. An unfolded ticket with sharp edges has better resale value.

**6. Prior ownership by someone famous** will add value to your collection.

**7. Tell a story with whatever you collect.** Be aware of the history and trends surrounding your collection and keep such information with it collection. Consider participating in local exhibitions once your collection is large enough.

**8. Display some of your collection at home.** Showing it off to guests will give you a sense of achievement and motivate you to keep collecting. But **don't devote an entire room to your collection** if you live in a small apartment. Collections should be displayed in shifts.



European meat grinders



A German meat grinder from the 1950s

## Yan Lizhong, collector of monastic robes

As a former Cambodian monk, Yan sees his collection of 50 robes as a way to tap into good karma. He has offered a home for many articles of clothing donated by or purchased from other monks throughout Asia.

"Though 50 isn't much of a collection, it's a quantity rarely seen in religious circles," Yan said. His favorite robe was one presented by his Cambodian master as a keepsake when he returned

to China in 2006.

"My master gave me this robe with a blessing. I love its unique texture and orange color. Most robes are either light or dark orange, but only certain shades of the color make me feel close to nature," he said.

Yan's first robe was purchased in Tibet on a 2002 trip to one of the region's lamaseries. He instantly fell in love with their colorful clothing.

"The colors, styles and ways of wearing their robes are radically different from what you see among other Buddhist monks in China. I had to buy one immediately," he said.

In addition to his Tibetan and Chinese robes, Yan also has clothing from Cambodia, Korea, Japan, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and India.

"Collecting is a way of reliving the past. Each item is a memory, and preserving it shows our respect for and understanding of those who came before us," he said.

Most people collect things that tie them to past memories. The keepsakes are used to stimulate and trigger fond memories. But even when memories fade, keepsakes remain a vital connection to the past.

"This may explain why people collect old war mementos to remember the romantic aspects of war while not forgetting the true horrors of such times," he said.



Yan Lizhong, a collector of monastic robes

Photos provided by Yan Lizhong



# The Place gets infusion of art and design



D&amp;M ceramic vases, starting at 98 yuan



Zixag bag, 629 yuan

MRKT gray basket, 238 yuan;  
green phone case, 120 yuan

Lekué cookware, 338 to 398 yuan



iSkin case for iPad, 698 yuan

By Annie Wei

A huge crowd of young adults gathered at The Place last Friday evening and craned their necks up at the big screen, where a series of comics drawn by local comic artist Heilichee was being shown.

His drawings were of thousands of flowers and leaves, with different layers of colors.

Heilichee was one of the first artists to present his work at UATown, a gigantic new multi-brand store at the ground floor of The Place.

The idea of UATown is to create a one-stop shop for designer pieces and art.

"We want to create a fun, comfortable and interactive atmosphere where customers can find quality products," said Yang Yun, the store's communication manager.

UATown collects products from China and abroad and creates a platform for young designers to showcase their clothes, accessories and home-living products.

Products such as iSkin and Lekué can only be found at UATown. iSkin is a protective case for iPads and iPhones. Fluffy iPad cases – light, waterproof and press-resistant – come in five colors: blue, purple, red, black and army green (698 yuan).

Lekué is a Spanish kitchen brand whose products are made of platinum silicone. They are colorful, light and practical for the modern kitchen. A full set ranges from less than 100 yuan to several hundred and includes salad bowls and steamed fish containers.

There is also a furniture area with products from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Italy and France, as well as by local designers like Ye Yuxuan.

If you want to buy something more affordable as a gift for a friend, try products from D&M, a home furnishing brand with handmade vases starting from 98 yuan.

There will be a lot of art exhibitions, Yang said, so the space will almost become a miniaturized 798 Art Zone.

Apart from shopping, visitor can relax and have a cup of ily coffee at a relaxation area, where free Wi-Fi is provided.

In the food area, there is a yogurt buffet section where customers can choose one or several flavors of yogurt ice cream (10 yuan for 100 grams) and mix it with nuts, candy and sauce.

## UATown

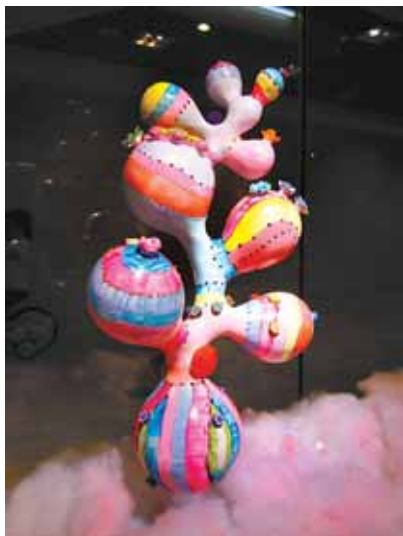
Where: B124, underground floor, south street, The Place, 9 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6587 1578

Website: uatown.com

Weibo: weibo.com/uatown



Papabubble candy, 68 to 128 yuan



A sculpture by artist Cui Ning, 22,700 yuan



A World Cup 2010 series, 128 yuan each

Photos by Sun Xiaoping

# New restaurants recommended by word-of-mouth on Weibo

By Annie Wei

These days, food editors and reporters exchange first impressions about new restaurants on microblogs before formally reviewing them.

This past week, *Beijing Today* received leads on two interesting new restaurants on Sina Weibo and followed up.



La Vong Fish, 108 yuan Photo by Yu Tingmei Shrimp salad, 48 yuan

## New Vietnamese in modern courtyard house

Tucked into Qianliang Hutong near the Museum of Fine Arts, a renovated courtyard has given rise to Susu, a spacious restaurant with a terrace seating and Chinese toon tree in the front yard. The decoration is modern, with high ceilings, glass walls, wood tables and a bar area.

While open for fewer than three weeks, the restaurant is already packed with customers during dinnertime.

Susu is the common Vietnamese name of a local dish: alligator pear.

People who have traveled to Vietnam may know that its cuisine is largely divided into three regions: northern, central and southern.

In the north, fewer herbs are used. Most popular Vietnamese restaurants in Beijing cook food in the middle and southern styles, with a variety of ingredients and delicate garnishing such as on spring rolls and shrimp dishes.

In the south, because there are more coconuts and sugarcanes, the food is sweeter. There is lots of Thai and Cambodian influence, so coconut milk and curry are used in abundance.

Herbs are also key. The

amount of fresh herbs in a dish can be directly proportional to that dish's value and authenticity.

At Susu, we ordered the papaya beef salad (36 yuan for vegetables only, 48 yuan for beef) for a starter, sliced green papaya mixed with or without beef and crushed peanuts, with a crisp and sour taste created by a twist of lime.

For main dishes, we recommend La Vong Fish (108 yuan). The dish is served in two parts: snakehead fish fillets sautéed in fennel leaves, turmeric and scallions, served sizzling over a flame; and a plate with vermicelli, fresh herbs like mint and coriander, crushed peanuts, rice crackers and homemade shrimp-fish gravy. (Lime shrimp paste is available on request.)

Fennel leaves are widely used in Vietnamese food. They grow thicker than in Thailand and have a stronger aroma, and go well with fish.

A Vietnamese waitress demonstrates how to eat this dish: first create a bowl of herbs, vermicelli, fillets and rice crackers, then add gravy and sprinkle in crushed peanuts. Mix and enjoy!

We also ordered the tomato fish soup (68 yuan), tomatoes and freshwater bass fillet seared with baby onions and lime over a bed of fennel leaves and green onions.

Unlike Cantonese soup, Vietnamese soup looks clear, with a strong aroma of mixed fresh herbs. The taste is fruity and a bit spicy.

The restaurant offers a few different kinds of red and white wine (40 to 45 yuan per glass). We tried Santa Ana Torrontes from Argentina (40 yuan per glass), refreshing and crisp, pairing well with the sour taste of several dishes. The cocktail Saigon Frizz (50 yuan) was good as well, made of Beef-eater gin, ginger, lime, Angostura bitters and tonic.

The restaurant has two chefs and a few waitresses from Vietnam. The service is friendly and attentive.

### Susu

Where: 10 Qianliang Xi Xiang, off Qianliang Hutong, Dongcheng District

Open: 11 am – 11 pm, closed Mondays

Tel: 8400 2699

Cost: Average 120 yuan per person



Two chefs from Vietnam work at Susu. Photos by Gustavo Rugeles

## Small Yunnan hutong restaurant



Lime-braised fish, 58 yuan



Palm flower, 28 yuan

Photos by Yu Tingmei

Finding the restaurant was a pleasure in and of itself: walking through hutong with the summer breeze and enjoying the sounds of an old neighborhood.

The restaurant is easy enough to find – just one alley south of Fangjia Hutong – but it is a small bungalow house with only four tables. The decor is homey.

One may not realize it, but Midian has been open for three years and just recently began promoting itself on Weibo.

The prices here are lower than at most Yunnan restaurants, and the atmosphere makes it a hidden gem.

A cold tomato dish is 10 yuan; spicy chicken with sauce (26 yuan), jasmine flower salad (18 yuan), special Yunnan fungus in oil (24 yuan), palm flower (28

yuan), sautéed jasmine flower with eggs (32 yuan), sautéed sponge guard (20 yuan), lime-braised fish (58 yuan) and steamed chicken with sticky rice (38 yuan) are all reasonably priced.

We recommend the palm flowers (28 yuan), fried banana tree flowers that taste like bamboo shoots. Banana trees grow easily in southern China.

The lime-braised fish (58 yuan) was also good: steamed bass with a lime juice base, topped with chives and red chilies.

The starchy, traditional Yunnan rice noodle (18 yuan) comes in a big serving, enough for two.

We also ordered papaya water (6 yuan). It is similar to the bitter chilled herbal jelly one eats as dessert at many Cantonese restaurants, but is more sweet and

sour. The white jelly is made of papaya powder, and the juice is a mix of squeezed papaya juice and brown sugar.

Southern rice wine starts at 6 yuan.

Most diners are repeat customers, according to a waitress, which explains why prices haven't increased in the past three years.

### Midian

Where: 57 Jiadaokou Beisiantiao, Dongcheng District (walk north to the third alley on your right [east] side from Jiadaokou crossroad)

Open: 11 am – 2:30 pm, 5 pm – midnight, closed on Mondays

Tel: 6402 7482

Website: weibo.com/1908915481

Cost: Average 50 yuan per person



By Chu Meng

Japanese design guru Kenya Hara, owner of the brand MUJI, will open his first solo exhibition on the Chinese mainland beginning June 13 at the Beijing Center for the Arts.

Titled "Designing Design," it will give local designers and fans a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to indulge in Hara's soul-touching, practical designs and learn more about his philosophy through talks.

Weng Ling, artistic director of the center, said the exhibition is the result of three years of talks with the artist. "We were waiting for his timetable. At the same time, he was waiting for China's art and design to mature," she said.

## Japanese designer exhibits works in China for first time

Hara's solo exhibition will be divided into three sections: Exhibitions of the Exhibition, Art Directing of MUJI and Multi-phase of Design.

It attempts to offer local designers a way to trace Hara's creative ideas – in branding, advertisement, billboards, exhibitions, books and posters – and integrate them.

It will also provide MUJI admirers a chance to directly interact with the legendary designer. MUJI, which means "No Brand Quality Goods," emphasizes minimalism and simplicity and avoids wasteful production and unnecessary packaging.

Hara had repeatedly said that "Emptiness" is the only spirit guiding his designs, as well as a core philosophy adopted in Japan. Simplicity is not only found in Japanese design, but

also cuisine and literature.

Hara prefers this adage to describe his philosophy: "An empty glass is much better than a full glass, for it provides all kinds of possibilities and can hold all kinds of meanings you endow."

The exhibition's broader intent is to provide an overview of Japan's design industry. Viewers get to glimpse the latest experimental and half-finished design prototypes, which can inspire future designs and home living.

**Designing Design - Kenya Hara**

**2011 China Solo Exhibition**

Where: Beijing Center for the Arts, 23 Qianmen Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: June 13 – July 15, 10 am – 8 pm (Mondays by appointment only)

Admission: free  
Tel: 6559 8008

### Upcoming

#### Nightlife

##### Children's Day for Five-strip Badge Youngster

A rock show about nostalgic red scarves and childhood, memory and joy.

Where: Mao Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: June 26, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 30 yuan advance purchase, 50 yuan at the door  
Tel: 6401 5269

### Stage in June

#### Concert

##### Anuna Ireland National Choir

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: June 14, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 120-1,280 yuan  
Tel: 6551 8058

##### Dresden Philharmonic

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 18, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 200-880 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

##### Jean-Efflam Bavouzet Piano Recital

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaochengyuan Lu, Xicheng District

When: June 28, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 30-580 yuan  
Tel: 6417 7845

##### Lucerne Symphony Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 28-29, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-880 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

#### Dance

##### Haze presented by Beijing Dance Theater

Where: Multi-functional Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 17-18, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 160-240 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

#### Drama

##### The Yellow Storm

Where: Theater Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 3-12, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 200-680 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

#### Soft

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: June 21-26, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 150-580 yuan  
Tel: 6551 8058

#### Opera

##### The Bat

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 3-6, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 160-680 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)

### 5 Friday, May 27

#### Exhibition

##### Amble – 12 young artists' group exhibition

This group exhibition shows works from 12 young artists born in the 1980s, focusing on their attitude toward the external world and passion about their own lives.

Where: Line Gallery, 798 East Street, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until June 15, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5978 9916

#### Nightlife

##### Liu Hongdong & The Sand

Liu Hongdong prefers the live show, a direct way to communicate with audiences and spread his unique ideas about original Chinese music.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District  
When: 9 pm

Admission: 50 yuan advance purchase, 60 yuan at the door  
Tel: 6401 5269

#### Movie



##### Confucius (1940)

The classic movie – director Fei Mu's inventive interpretation of Confucianism – was made in 1940 with the Japanese occupying Shanghai and the film industry in chaos. It was restored in 2009.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm  
Admission: 15 yuan, free for UCCA member  
Tel: 8459 9269

### 6 Saturday, May 28

#### Exhibition

##### Fin De Partie – Kendall Geers Solo Exhibition

Kendall Geers uses everyday objects like TV sets and tin cans to express bold, revolutionary ideas.

Where: Galleria Continua, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: Until June 26, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free  
Tel: 5978 9505

#### Nightlife



##### Bring Kids to Rock

To celebrate Children's Day, five local bands – the Eve of Frost, Yulinjun, Yuantu, Z18 and Conductor – are playing an exciting night of free music.

Where: Mao Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District  
When: 8 pm  
Admission: free  
Tel: 5869 6628

#### Movie



##### Nuovo Cinema Paradiso (1988)

This Italian movie is about a filmmaker who recalls the time in his childhood when he fell in love with cinema at his village's theater and formed a deep friendship with the theater's projectionist.

Where: Beijing LGBT Center, 2108 Xintiandi Plaza Suite B, 1 Xibahe Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 6:30 pm  
Admission: 10 yuan  
Tel: 6446 5698

### Sunday, May 29

#### Exhibition

##### Nu Yishu Series V – Viriditas Group Exhibition

This group exhibition shows new collaborative art by Australian and Chinese artists and is the fifth in a series of exhibitions curated by Denise Keele-Bedford, who engages in cross-cultural art forms and women's art.

Where: Imagine Gallery, 8 Feijiacun Yishu Gongzuoshi, Feijiacun, Laiguangying Dong

Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: Until June 5, daily except Monday, 10 am – 5:30 pm

Admission: free  
Tel: 6438 5747

#### Concert

##### Shengdongjixi New Jazz Concert Fast Past III

Pianist Kit Young, saxophonist Li Tieqiao, guitarist Pierre Brahini, bassist Ye Penggang and drummer Zhang Yang perform improvisational jazz.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798

Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: 4 pm  
Admission: 30 yuan advance purchase, 50 yuan at the door  
Tel: 8459 9269

#### Movie

##### Wizards of Waverly Place (2009)

This 2009 comedy-drama-fantasy is based on a Disney Channel original series.

Where: Inn Coffee, 309-3 Silo City for Coastal Group, 33 Guanqun Dong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 8 pm  
Admission: 15 yuan  
Tel: 8795 5401



(By Xinji Letu)

# Fight aging, blemishes with guasha facial

By Li Zhixin

Most women are familiar with the facial massages performed at beauty salons, but facial *guasha* is another effective way to retain your youthful look.

## Guasha lightens your skin

Lauren Zhang, a 29-year-old member of the Beijing International Film Festival Committee, was under pressure last month to get Beijing ready for the big event.

"There were too many errands to arrange and canceled errands to reschedule. I was too busy to eat regular meals and always forgot to drink enough water to keep my body hydrated," she said.

The stress and bad diet took their toll on Zhang, who this month found herself looking thin and ragged with dark bags under her eyes and a dry, yellow complexion.

No combination of liquid foundation could repair or hide the damage to her complexion.

When the festival ended, she rushed to a beauty salon to seek professional skin care. There, the herbal specialists introduced her to the use of traditional guasha for facial treatment. After one session, Zhang's complexion was immediately more radiant.

Facial guasha is derived from the traditional scraping treatment most often performed on a patient's back. This version requires extreme care, as the skin around the face is more sensitive and thin than the skin on the back.

The two characters of the Chinese name described the process as a scraping that removes "sand," or toxins and congestion, from the body.

Facial guasha is usually combined with a facial cleanser and scalp massage. The procedure uses consistent strokes with a specially designed guasha board along specific channels and acupuncture points on the face. It can reduce blood vessel obstruction, stimulate circulation and promote the metabolic processes of the body, and has shown lasting effects for combating dark skin, pigmentation and dark circles.

"Regular facial guasha promotes the growth of new skin cells, helps renew your complexion and can effectively reduce clogged pores, control acne and pimples, reduce acne scars, tighten the chin and enhance the ability of your skin to absorb make-up products," said Zhuo Junqing, a doctor at Chinese medicine health care center of Beijing Modern Hospital.

Many patients swear by its ability to iron out fine lines, remove eye bags, tighten the face and reduce fatigue and insomnia.

## Performing facial guasha

1. Apply normal pressure to the patient's skin using your fingertips. If the marks that your fingertips leave on the surface fade slowly, this is a sign that the skin is in need of treatment. Practitioners also perform guasha on patients with acute or chronic pain and symptoms of achy, tender or knotted muscles.

2. Rub medicine on the area where you will perform the treatment to stimulate blood circulation. Traditionally, practitioners use peanut or olive oil, but any lubricant and herbal ointment

that is soothing is acceptable.

3. Stroke the skin moderately by applying pressure on it with a specially designed instrument like a round jade or horn blade.

4. Perform guasha by dragging the instrument from top to bottom, according to the direction of blood flow, and check whether it created a small mark or raised bumps on the surface of the skin.

During the scraping, capillaries will break and release red blood cells. This can promote blood circulation and remove

obstructions in the blood vessels and toxins from the body. Though red, purple or black bruises appear after the scraping, patients usually don't feel significant pain during the treatment.

Areas not suffering from blood stasis will simply turn pink after the scraping.

5. Examine the color of the marks to determine the root cause of the problem. Light colored marks signal a blood deficiency, purple or black ones blood stasis and dark, red ones are a sign of internal heat.

## Guidelines for guasha

1. Don't perform guasha on patients with contact dermatitis as the disease is contagious.

2. Patients with serious diabetes, anemia, leukemia and thrombopenia are not suitable for guasha.

3. Don't perform guasha on patients with furuncles, wounds, sores or macula as the scraping may cause the wound to reopen and the infection to spread.

4. Don't perform guasha on pregnant woman or people who are drunk, starving or tired - it may cause them to faint.

5. Don't perform guasha on the eyes, lips, tongue, nostrils or ear canal, as the scraping may damage these more sensitive areas of skin.

## Complementary therapies for dark skin

There are also several natural treatments that can reduce the appearance of dark skin and blemishes to boost the efficacy of facial guasha:

### 1. Lemon juice

Raw lemon juice can be applied directly to dark skin and blemishes, but don't just leave it on the surface of the skin. Massage the juice into affected areas gently for about 30 seconds. Leave it on for 30 minutes before washing.

Mix lemon juice with one teaspoon each of milk, honey and almond oil, apply it to the face and wash after 10 to 15 minutes.

Do this twice a day, but avoid exposing your skin to sunlight while it has lemon juice on it.

### 2. Tomato juice

Apply a mixture of oatmeal and tomato juice or tomato juice with two to three drops of lime juice and apply it to the face. Wash after 20 minutes using cold water. Placing sliced, raw potatoes on the face can also reduce dark skin and spots.

### 3. Apple cider vinegar

The malic acid in apple cider vinegar can renew skin cells and tissues. Dilute a cup of this and apply it to affected areas of your skin.

### 4. Almond

Soak several almonds overnight and grind them into a fine paste using milk. Apply it to the face and leave it on until the next morning. Do this daily for 15 days, then reduce the procedure to twice a week for maintenance.

### 5. Avocado

If dark skin and spotting is due to aging, try using avocado on the face. The fruit's vitamin E and linoleic acid can repair damage and reduce the appearance of age spots.

Apply mashed avocado directly to your skin and leave it there for an hour before washing.

After using these treatments, immediately apply a good whitening moisturizer to reduce the appearance of dark skin and spots by up to 45 percent during the first two weeks of use. The emollient properties can improve the texture of your skin.



# Island hopping made easy

## Three Indian Ocean countries open to tourism

By Zhang Dongya

Three island countries in the Indian Ocean – Mauritius, Madagascar and Reunion – jointly turned themselves into a travel destination this month, offering natural landscapes and beach attractions.

Vanilla, which is cultivated on all three islands and plays a key role in the countries' heritage, was adopted as the symbol of the common bond.

Visitors are encouraged to sunbathe in Mauritius, hike in Reunion and experience nature in Madagascar.



Fianarantsoa Cathedral in Madagascar

*Allée des Baobabs in Madagascar*  
Photos provided by Mauritius Tourism Bureau and Madagascar Tourism Bureau



Mauritius is famous for its beautiful beaches with white sand.



The Golf du Chateau, a golf and spa resort in Mauritius



The old city of Fianarantsoa in Madagascar



A lemur in Madagascar

### Mauritius, an island in heaven

Mauritius has about 240 kilometers of white sandy beaches encircled by coral reefs. Famous beaches include Trou Aux Biches and Mon Choisy in the north, Poste La Fayette and Roches Noires in the east, and Flic en Flac and Tamarin in the west.

The Trou Aux Biches was selected by World Travel Awards as the "Indian Ocean's Leading Beach Destination" last year for its pleasant coastal scenery and soft sand. The Paradis beach in Mauritius was also nominated.

Pamplennousses Botanical Garden is a rich and unique tropical garden in northern Mauritius. First constructed in 1767, it is the oldest botanical garden in the southern hemisphere. It features giant water lilies with white, blue or pink flowers that

only blossom for two days. The biggest lily, called Victoria Amazonica, is large enough to envelop a small child.

Another destination in north Mauritius is the Triolet Shivala, a large village where one can visit the biggest Hindu temple: Maheshwarnath Temple. Built in 1819, its unique colors and decoration make it an amazing place to worship.

Grand Bassin is a sacred lake in south Mauritius, believed to be filled with waters from the Ganges of India. The lake becomes especially popular in February and March, when locals hold religious events there. The Grand Bassin Temple is located on a hill beside the lake, adding to the beautiful scenery.

In the south, Black River Gorges

National Park is a must-go place. It features a large collection of plants and birds, so the best time to visit the park is during the flowering season between September and January.

Trou aux Cerfs, a 300-meter-wide crater, was formed as the result of volcanic activity. From the surrounding hills, the crater is quite a site. Geologists believe the dormant volcano can become active in the next thousand years.

Other attractions include Domaine les Pailles, an old sugar mill, where visitors can taste their rum and experience a horse-drawn carriage ride.

Mauritius giant tortoises also attract many visitors. May and June is when these tortoises lay their eggs.

*Continued on page 21...*



The Formica Leo crater on Reunion

...continued from page 20

### Madagascar, a scented island

The island of Madagascar, located off the east coast of Africa, with its diverse fauna and flora, is considered an ideal vacation destination. Its main draw is Ranomafana National Park.

The park has a dense rainforest and is home to many rare species of plants and creatures. Established in 1991, it has a large mountainous area of 415 square kilometers and is covered by large trees.

The most recognizable animal that lives there is the golden bamboo lemur, an endangered species. There are as many as 12 lemur species in the forest, including the eastern woolly lemur, eastern gray bamboo lemur, red-bellied lemur and brown mouse lemur. Other mammals include tenrecs, bats and mongooses.

Streams and brooks from Namorona River flow through the park. The best time to visit is between September and November.

Besides the forest, a little island called Nosy Be is a hot destination. Nicknamed "the scented island in Malagasy," visitors are treated to a cornucopia of smells: coffee, cocoa, vanilla, sugar cane and frangipani trees.

Madagascar also features a rich mix of 16 to 20 ethnic groups, including the Sakalava, Merina and Betsileo.

### Reunion, exotic tropical island

Reunion is a small and exotic island located between Mauritius and Madagascar featuring views of a deep blue ocean, high mountains and huge forests.

Reunion consists of many volcanoes, including Piton de la Fournaise, or the Mountain of the Furnace. It is the only active volcano on the island, also one of the most active volcanoes in the world. The latest eruption occurred last December and lasted two days.

If you want to go to the beach, St. Gilles les Bain is the island's best sunbathing place. It features 20 kilometers of coastline with beautiful sand. There are many resort hotels, beach bars and restaurants here. Visitors have a wide array of water activities they can participate in, like diving, snorkeling or swimming.

Cirque de Mafate is a remote village on the island, formed by the collapse of a large volcano. It is undeveloped and without electricity or roads suitable for cars. Locals use solar panels to produce electricity and also use solar water heaters. Tourists who want to visit must go on foot.

Piton des Neiges is the tallest mountain on Reunion and the highest point in the area. At 3,069 meters tall, its peak is often covered with snow. It is a popular destination for hikers.



A volcano



Belvedere du Maito



A whale frolics in Laurent



Seabed of Laurent



Paragliding at Saint-Leu

Photos provided by Reunion Tourism of Bureau

## Dining

### Michelin chefs meet for 4th menu

Hilton Beijing Wangfujing is creating another epicurean extravaganza with international tastes for one night only on June 27.

Masters of the culinary universe will be flying in from Europe to present unique masterpieces paired with the very finest wines.

Chef Francesco Cerea, from the 3-star Michelin restaurant "Da Vittorio" in Bergamo, Italy, is known for making biodynamic dishes.

Chef Massimiliano Alajmo of Le Calandre in Padua, Italy became the youngest three-starred

chef in Michelin Guide history in 2002.

Chef Beatrice Segoni hails from Borgo San Jacopo of Hotel Lungarno, Florence, Italy, a restaurant owned by the Ferragamo family and voted as one of the 10 best in Florence by L'ESPRESSO in 2011.

Limited seating is available.

Where: Hilton Beijing Wangfujing, 8 Wangfujing Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: June 27, 6:30 pm

Tel: 5812 8818

## Hotel



### Legendale Hotel Beijing

With its stylish and spacious guest rooms and fun dining experience, Legendale Hotel Beijing is sure to dazzle. Its award-winning menus are presented in tastefully decorated restaurants and bars. The attractive cakes on the afternoon tea menu are some of the finest gourmet desserts in the city.

Come to impress your friends, family members and business associates. For weary travelers, hostel staff can help recommend a wide variety of Chinese teas that will help you refresh and unwind after a long trip. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the day. Call 8511 3388 ext. 8998 for inquiries.

### Tianlun hotels tap IDEaS Hospitality Consulting

IDEaS Revenue Solutions, the leading provider of pricing and revenue management software, announced its China division is working with Tianlun International Hotels to optimize the hotel group's revenue at Radegast properties in Beijing and other hotels throughout the country.

Tianlun International Hotels is one of China's premier hotel groups and was established in Hong Kong in 2001. The hotel group ranks among China's Top 30 and the world's Top 300 based on the strength of its growth. Its current properties span the greater China region.

Given the rapid growth, having proper structures and strategies in place has been vital to Tianlun's continuing success. In reviewing methods that could improve revenue performance, Tianlun International Hotels sought out IDEaS Hospitality Consulting.

IDEaS Hospitality Consulting will deliver a series of revenue management programs to Tianlun International Hotels' nationwide properties, which will review the various aspects of pricing, forecasting and optimization within the organization.

IDEaS Hospitality Consulting will assist Tianlun International Hotels in improving its professional practice and strategic approach forecasting to ensure that Tianlun International Hotels is better able to predict and react to changing market conditions.

### Marriott conservation program begins second year

A delegation of Marriott International executives led by President Arne Sorenson visited Pingwu County, Sichuan Province to examine the first-year performance of its "Nobility of Nature" program — an ambitious freshwater conservation effort. Marriott

senior executives said it was essential to build on the project's success and conserve more water across the country.

Announced in spring 2010 at the World Expo Shanghai, "Nobility of Nature" is a collaboration between Marriott International and Conservation International to support freshwater conservation and assist rural communities with sustainable business that puts less stress on the environment.

Marriott International has invested \$500,000 to seed the program. The funds are used to provide grants, training, resources and community development to local villagers in Sichuan, one of the world's largest freshwater sources.

Guanba Village in Pingwu was one of the first sites to receive support from "Nobility of Nature." The funding helped provide beehives, state-of-the-art bee farming knowledge and related infrastructure to the Guanba Bee Farming Cooperative.

### Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru, Kota Kinabalu opens new facilities

2011 is an eventful year for Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort and Spa, Kota Kinabalu. Last September, the resort temporarily shuttered its children's playground, swimming pools, Sunset Bar, Coco-Joe's poolside restaurant and Health Club, and bid farewell to its entertainment outlet, Blue Note.

The ensuing six-month upgrade was unveiled today and showcased a brand new water play area, the first and only one of its kind in Borneo. The water play area has a dedicated section for toddlers, teenagers and an interactive area for all ages. Guests can enjoy the 100-meter water slides and water battle stations with water balloon launchers. There is also a new 2,000-square-meter swimming pool with a tapered shoreline for children and a Jacuzzi and infinity pool section for adults.

## Airline



### Airline profits in spite of fuel costs

The Singapore Airline Group achieved net profits of \$1.09 billion for the 2010-11 financial year, an increase of \$876 million from the previous year's profits, which were hit hard by the global financial crisis. The 2010-11 financial year result included an exceptional item of \$202 million as a provision for fines imposed on SIA Cargo.

Group revenue grew \$1.82 billion to \$14.53 billion as both carriage and yields recovered from depressed levels last financial year. This revenue growth was achieved in a year punctuated by volcanic ash in Europe, snowstorms in Europe and the US, floods in Australia, and earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan.

On the cost side, Group expenditure rose \$609 million to \$13.3 billion. Fuel costs excluding hedging — the biggest expense item of the Group — increased \$877 million as jet fuel prices surged 26 percent. This was partially offset by a smaller loss from fuel hedging (\$62 million versus \$558 million).

Consequently, Group operating profit improved from \$63 million last financial year to \$1.27 billion for the financial year that ended March 31.

The group earned an operating profit of \$851 million in the financial year, representing a turnaround from the operating loss of \$39 million the previous financial year. All the major companies in the Group recorded improved operating results.

## Event

### Sailing family feat

Scratching your head on what to plan for a family outing this summer? Why not take your family and join us for a weekend of fun sailing? This special event is designed to introduce you and your kids to the exciting sport of sailing, so you can share fun on the water together. Get onboard for a weekend of family fun!

The special package costs 1,900 yuan for adults and 1,600 yuan for children. Fees include transportation, hotel accommodation and meals.

When: June 18-19

Tel: 5900 0276

E-mail: sailing@beijingsailing.com

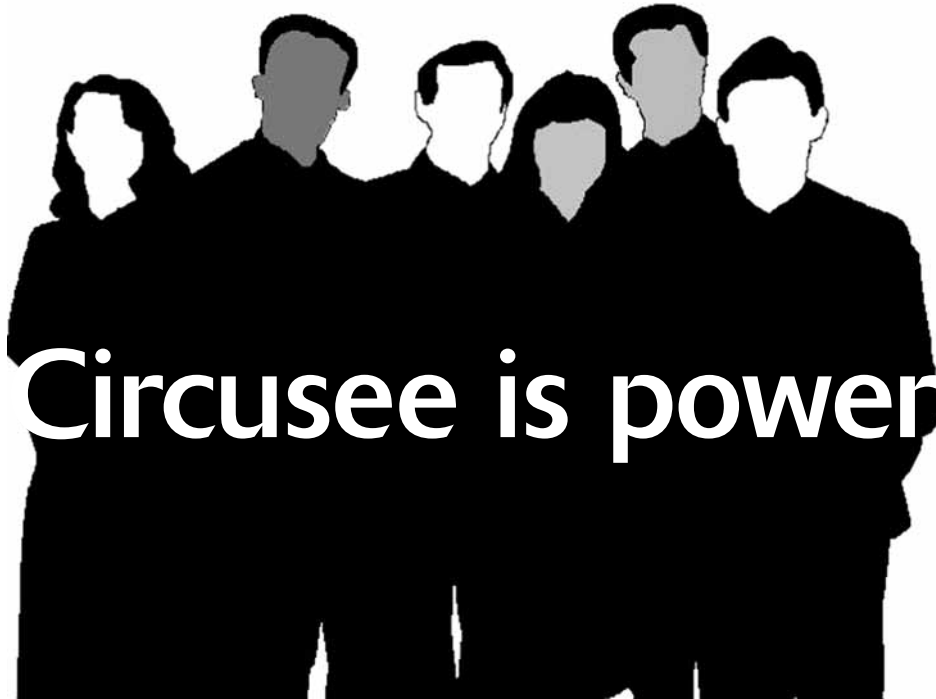
(By Jackie Zhang)

## Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Li Zhixin at lizhixin@ynet.com.

## Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week



By Han Manman

My friend Jennifer, here from the US and studying Chinese, recently developed a particular interest in Chinese microblogs. She thought they provided her a good way to learn about Chinese language and society.

Every time she meets me, she talks about the interesting topics she saw on microblogs and her reactions.

"Hey, Han, did you hear about the story of Wang Gongquan?" she asked me the other day. "He eloped!"

Jennifer seemed truly excited, but I told her I'd never heard of him.

"You are so outdated! Wang is the most debated figure in microblogs these days," Jennifer said.

She told me that Wang, 50, is the co-founder of a big investment company in

China. He posted plans to elope with his mistress on his microblog.

He wrote that he was giving up everything to run away with the woman he loved, reputation be damned.

Jennifer told me that Wang's post has been forwarded tens of thousands of times. While some admire his courage to pursue love, others say he's being unfair to his current wife.

"But I saw many leave a message of 'circusee,' or 'circusee with smilence,'" she said. "What's the meaning of that?"

"Does 'circusee' have something to do with 'circus'?"

Here, I was happy to help my friend out.

"Circusee" means to pay great attention to something. It is the syn-

thesis of two words: "circus" and "see." "Like a circus performance worth watching," I said.

As for "smilence," it means smile and keep silent. It's used to indicate that someone has complicated feelings about an issue, I told Jennifer.

"So, I guess now I know the popular online slogan, 'Circusee is power, circusee changes the world,'" she said. "It means onlookers can make a difference by commenting or sharing popular posts."

I nodded.

"Those netizens can not only help spread the information, but also help information garner more attention and become more colorful as more and more people get involved," Jennifer said.

## Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to lizhixin@ynet.com together with your name and address.

# Please Slow Down the Stairs

By Terry Boyd-Zhang

The meaning of this sign in English is obvious. The stairs have been moving at an incredible out-of-control pace and need someone to grab them and force them to move at a regular, cultured pace.

Sort of like a small child who is running. The child is running really, really fast down a large hill (large to a small kid), running, running, until it is not clear whether the child is running or the momentum of short legs versus big hill has taken over and ... oh! Wipeout and faceplant. That hurts.

Or sort of like how the escalators are experienced, heading into the subway after an early Friday night in Sanlitun that started even earlier. "Would someone please slow down the



stairs?! I'd like to get on!" a drunken sailor roars. Getting off, on the other hand, is accomplished by a less-than-graceful, but functional, crash.

Honestly, that's how I feel about the whole world these days — Stop spinning! I need to catch up a bit! It seems that it

isn't just science and technology that has improved, but the dimensions of time and space have actually shrunk. Perhaps I'm just getting old and cranky.

All said, this sign is in your best interest. Let's look at it carefully. The first character, *xia*, means "down, going down." (See it pointing down?) The second, *lou*, means "building," and with the third word, *louti*, means "stairs." *Qingman* is "please slow down" — commonly heard being hollered at the small child above, just before impact. *Mampao* — run slow!

This sign contains the same idea, but instead of running, you are asked to xing, which in this case means "walk." In other words, Please walk slowly (or carefully) when going down the stairs.

## 1. The administration will have no choice but to continually contradict itself.

**Professor Zhu Shida (ZSD):** I think this sentence is erratic. The problem lies in whether it is "to contradict" or "contradict." That is to say, whether "but" is a conjunction or a preposition here. If it is a conjunction, the sample sentence should be: The administration will have no choice but continually contradict itself. This is something like, They look alike but are different. She could do nothing but weep. You would not say, She could do nothing but to weep. However, if we regard "but" as a preposition, then it is all right to say: The administration will have no choice but to continually contradict itself, with "to continually contradict itself" as a noun clause. Just as: Nothing remains but to die. Grammar is interesting, isn't it?

**Terry Boyd-Zhang (TBZ):** I think I might change "continually" to "constantly" or "frequently" in order to show the meaning of time after time, time and again. Also, "The administration will have no choice but continually contradict itself" is incorrect — you need the "to" in there.

## 2. Europe was no longer a wonderland for international models due to shrinking demand due to the financial crisis.

**ZSD:** This has something to do with rhetoric. The repetition of the phrase "due to" is very much undesirable. Such repetition should be by all means be avoided in writing. You may have a lot of choices to avoid it. For instance, you may say: Europe was no longer a wonderland for international models due to shrinking demand after the financial crisis. Or, Europe was no longer a wonderland for international models due to shrinking demand arising from the financial crisis. When we are writing an English essay, we must pay attention not only to grammar, but also rhetoric, to make it look professional, fine and elegant. Is it so?

**TBZ:** Yes. You should avoid repetition in English, especially in essay and article writing. If there is repetition, it should have its own special significance, such as emphasis or poetic nuance, which represents an extremely sophisticated level of writing, a level of which most of us have not yet achieved.

## 3. Each has something symbolic about it that represents itself.

**ZSD:** This is a tricky sentence. I will explain the process of how to look at it; I mean the process of analyzing it. At first glance, I think we should change it into: Each has something symbolic about what represents itself. But, this sentence assumes nuances of different meaning from the sample sentence. Grammatically, it is all right. But it is not what the author wishes to say. On second thought, I think the sentence is perfect. Why? The word "that" modifies the whole previous part of the sentence, that is, "Each has something symbolic about it." Which way is right? Maybe both. The matter lies in how you view it.

**TBZ:** I think the sentence would be clearer simply by knowing what "each" is referring to. For example, Each countries' flag has something symbolic on it that represents the country itself. Now, I've changed it a little bit more but in this case, for clarity, maybe the reader just needs some more information.



“ When life has been destroyed,  
rebuild it to be even better. ”

# Reborn clean

By Yao Weijie

This documentary about China's first low-carbon village tells a story of disaster recovery, environmental protection and cultural differences.

## The success of China's first low-carbon village

The Wenchuan earthquake of 2008 forever changed the lives of the people of Daping Village in Pengzhou, Sichuan Province. While many documentaries have recorded the event, *My Mother's Dreamland*, told with an environmentalist angle by director Gao Song, is no doubt the most outstanding.

The film follows Liao Xiaoyi, founder of the non-governmental environmental protection organization Global Village of Beijing and winner of the Sophie Prize, and her profound influence on the lives of the Daping villagers.

Months after the earthquake, Liao came to Daping and told villagers she wanted to establish a LOHAS Family low-carbon village on the site. At the time, no one knew what Liao was talking about or why they should choose such a lifestyle.

Liao's plan was to rebuild Daping with homes made of discarded wood instead of bricks and cement. The villagers would be required to plant vegetables planted without pesticide, wash clothes without detergent, recycle their garbage and avoid work that required a commute.

The demands were met with furious opposition. Most villagers were more concerned about rebuilding quickly and earning money than living a low-carbon lifestyle.

It took repeated discussions and the founding of a LOHAS association to provide the villagers with subsidies to persuade them to give it a try.

Three years later, the houses and roads are built and villagers have their own industry. The women work to embroider handkerchiefs, which they sell on an e-commerce platform established by the Chinese Red Cross Foundation.

Much of their other income is from tourism services, offering city-dwellers a rural escape and a chance to learn about organic farming. Through a share-holding system, the villagers are given a 51 percent controlling stake in their tourism and a chance to exert their initiative and creativity.

Since then, the village has come to embrace low-carbon living.

The director heard of Daping's changes in 2009. After a storied 16-year career developing radio and television programs in Sichuan Province, Gao decided to focus on this sub-story of the Sichuan quake.

"Many directors wanted to record the Wenchuan earthquake, and I was no exception. But I didn't want to be a follower – if I were going to make a



Liao Xiaoyi (left), founder of Global Village

film, it would need to be on my own angle. Although the government took the lead in earthquake recovery, it was the individuals who really made it happen," Gao said.

*My Mother's Dreamland* follows an objective style, and is comparatively authentic. Much of its drama hinges on a conflict between Liao and her daughter Wang Shenghan, nicknamed Kele in the film.

The daughter is a college student in the US who came to the village three times. She scorned her mother's efforts, noting the stereotypes about rural China. Liao's banning of veterinary medicines cost the village entire years worth of fish and chickens. Some villagers could not endure the hard life and left to find work elsewhere.

"Disputes are the best commentary. I just needed to record them faithfully," Gao said.

But Daping has changed a lot, and so has Wang's opinion of her mother.

Recovering from disaster is a long and painful road, but also a rare opportunity to rebuild the right way, Gao said. The new low-carbon village has boosted the local economy and promoted environmental protection.

Dao's documentary, originally titled *LOHAS Family*, was shot from July 2009 to April 2010 to record how Liao guided villagers in rebuilding their lives in a low-carbon, environmentally-friendly way. The final cut ran 75 minutes and aired on a local Sichuan channel.

"Villagers called me to tell me how much they appreciated my work. Since airing the show, they've received lots of calls from abroad from people eager to understand and aid them," Gao said.

In order to spread the news about how this low-carbon village has succeeded, Gao re-edited the film for a new 60-minute cut, *My Mother's Dreamland*, which is being screened at movie festivals around the world.

"Daping is the biggest ecological project in rural China. We're now introducing this low-carbon concept to other villages, such as Bama in Guangxi Province and Wuxi in Chongqing," Gao said. "I hope more people can learn about it."



Liao Xiaoyi's plan was to rebuild Daping as a low-carbon village with homes made of discarded wood instead of brick and cement.

Photos provided by Gao Song

### My Mother's Dreamland

Where: Broadway Cinematheque, Building 4 Floor 2, 1 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongcheng District (by the north section of the Museum of Modern Art)

When: June 4, 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8438 8258 ext. 8008